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TODAY IN arab news

Traffic Week begins

With the start of the annual Traffic Safety Week in Jeddah today, Col. Shabat Ahmad Mufit, director of the Jeddah Traffic Department, warns in an interview with *Arab News* that "no leniency will be shown to any motorist ignoring the traffic rules", especially with regard to speed limit. — Page 2

Solidarity broadcast

Underground Radio Solidarity broadcasts a satirical comment in Warsaw, while Polish leader Gen. Wojciech Jaruzelski concedes "the nation has the right to be embittered." — Page 6

India hits back

India struck three quick blows in the last 20 minutes to get back into the third cricket Test against West Indies in Guyana. Richards consolidated a fine start on the opening day with an unbeaten 97 before the Indians struck. — Page 8

The charm of Cairo

The ninth article in our Arab heritage series is on Cairo which remains as beautiful as the famous Arab traveler found it in 14th century. — Page 11

Anti-nuclear protest

British anti-nuclear campaigners join hands in a 14-mile human chain linking three key installations in what they call Britain's "nuclear valley." — Page 24

Iran-Iraq truce on the cards to combat slick

MANAMA, April 1 (Agencies) — Gulf governments stepped up efforts Friday to arrange a limited ceasefire between Iraq and Iran before sending squads of experts to combat an enormous oil slick drifting from the war zone and threatening marine life and vital water desalination plants along the region.

"Priority must be accorded to efforts to shut back the (Iranian) Nowruz oil wells," said Kuwait's Abdul Latif Al-Zaidan, who has been liaising between Iran and the Gulf Council for protection of Marine Environment.

Iraq and Iran have been reported to have reacted favorably to a Kuwaiti initiative for convening a ministerial meeting of the eight-member Gulf council for Environment Protection. The meeting has been scheduled for next Wednesday in Kuwait according to Zaidan. It would be attended also by Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, the United Arab Emirates, Bahrain, Qatar and Oman.

Zaidan and Khaled Fakhro, head of the Bahrain-based Regional Mutual Emergency Aid Center, have returned from a visit to Bahrain where they discussed with Iranian leaders prospects of a ceasefire with Iraq after capping the damaged oil wells.

"All squads are on alert, ready to enter the war zone and handle the oil spill," said Zaidan. "But the Nowruz wells will have to be capped first, and the squads must be secured against the dangers of war."

Meanwhile, environment experts will hold emergency talks in Bahrain on Monday on how to deal with the oil slick.

Helicopter and satellite surveillance show that the slick has broken into individual patches dotted across nearly half the width of the Gulf.

Colombia quake toll rises to 500

POPAYAN, Colombia, April 1 (AFP) — Rescue workers were continuing to dig through the rubble here Friday after an earthquake Thursday and tremors overnight killed an estimated 500 persons, according to rescue teams.

A tremor Thursday night triggered the collapse of several old houses and caused panic among thousands of persons who had spent the night in the street. The earthquake at 8:15 a.m. Thursday — measuring seven on the open-ended Richter scale — had already destroyed 60 percent of the city.

More than 200 bodies had been dug out of the ruins early Friday mainly in the historical center of the 16th-century Spanish colonial city, a major tourist site in southwestern Colombia and currently teeming with from 20-30,000 visitors for festival week.

None of the 70 dead identified so far were foreigners, although officials did not rule out that some foreigners would be found.

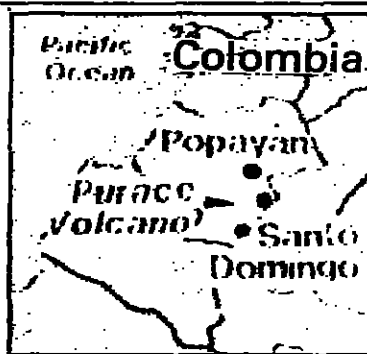
The earthquake was considered to be the worst in the country's history. About 1,200 persons are now thought to have been injured and more than 2,000 are without shelter. The number of people who suffered losses from the disaster was put at between 50,000 and 90,000.

The main police barracks crumbled, burying dozens of policemen. Several churches and public buildings and hundreds of private homes were destroyed or damaged so severely that they will have to be demolished. The university, one of Colombia's most famous, was in danger of collapsing.

Only 30 percent of the stricken area in the center of the city could be searched Thursday night and rescuers were forced to suspend their activities overnight because of a water and electricity shortage.

At nightfall, the city was placed under strict military control to prevent looting. The first pictures of the disaster on Colombian television showed that almost 95 percent of the city's historical center had been destroyed.

The streets of Popayan, once called "the white city" because of its whitewashed walls, looked as if they had been bombed, with broken gutters and caved-in sewers.



U.S. halts F-16 sale till Israel pulls out

LOS ANGELES, April 1 (Agencies) — U.S. President Reagan said Thursday he would delay the projected sale to Israel of 75 F-16 jets until it withdraws its troops from Lebanon.

Reagan's comment to the World Affairs Council follows the Pentagon's notification of Congress last week that it wants to sell Israel 200 Sidewinder air combat missiles for about \$16 million.

But the president said that the law prohibits sale of the fighting falcon jets while Israel still has forces in Lebanon. The reason, Reagan said, is that U.S. weapons may be supplied to other countries only for defensive purposes.

The administration announced the proposed \$2.7 billion sale of the jets last May, a month before the Israeli invasion of Lebanon.

The earliest the planes could be delivered is 1985 — provided Congress did not veto the deal once Reagan cleared it.

Another 75 F-16s, promised to Israel as a result of the 1978 Camp David agreements, were delivered in installments prior to the Israeli invasion of Lebanon.

Reagan said the Israeli forces "are in a position of occupying another country that has asked them to leave." U.S. law barred his administration from releasing the planes to Israel.

It was the first time since the Israeli inva-

sion of Lebanon last June that the president had clearly linked U.S. arms supply to Israel to a troop withdrawal.

It appeared an even more forceful statement of U.S. policy since one questioner had asked him if the United States should not respond to the presence of Soviet SAM-5 surface-to-air missiles in Syria by giving Israel more planes.

The United States has already supplied 75 F-16s to Israel, which last year ordered another 75.

Commenting on the current Israeli-Lebanese-U.S. talks to resolve the Lebanese problem, Reagan said that U.S. efforts to get Israeli, Syrian and Palestinian forces out of Lebanon had been a "frustrating experience."

In a reference to the Camp David peace accords between Egypt and Israel, he said U.S. Middle East policy was "to create more Egypt."

Reagan action irks Tel Aviv

TEL AVIV, April 1 (AP) — A senior Israeli source Friday said President Reagan's continued refusal to sell 75 F-16 fighter planes to Israel until it withdrew from Lebanon was "curious" and "infuriating."

The source, who spoke on condition that he remain anonymous, rejected Reagan's statement that the planes might be used otherwise than for defensive purposes while Israeli troops were in Lebanon.

The source said Israel invaded Lebanon in order to defend itself against the Palestine Liberation Organization, and that it had no designs on Lebanese territory.

The F-16 ban was imposed by Reagan to show U.S. disapproval of the June invasion. The source said Israel was also annoyed that it was being denied U.S. weaponry at a time when the Soviet Union was supplying Syria, which also has troops in Lebanon, with massive quantities of arms.

A top Israeli official said Thursday's round of Israeli-Lebanon talks had reached agreement on the key issue of joint patrols in southern Lebanon once Israeli troops withdraw, adding that if Reagan had known of the development in the talks, "maybe he would have refrained from calling them frustrating."

Soviets question U.K. expulsions

LONDON, April 1 (Agencies) — Britain's expulsion of two Soviet diplomats, ordered out along with a journalist on grounds they were spies, was "totally unfounded and unsubstantiated," the Soviet Embassy said Friday.

"The mentioned representatives were engaged exclusively in activity aimed at the development of Soviet-British relations and acted in strict conformity with their official status," Embassy Press Attache Nikolai Spasski told the Associated Press.

Using diplomatic jargon for spying, the Foreign Office accused the embassy's assistant air attache Guennadi A. Primakov and Second Secretary Vladimir V. Ivanov of "activities incompatible with their status."

Journalist Igor V. Titov, correspondent for the Soviet foreign affairs magazine *New*

Times, was also given seven days leave, accused of spying with the Foreign Office phrase "unacceptable activities."

The Soviet Embassy had kept silent until Friday morning on the latest expulsions by Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher's Conservative government, noted for a hard public line with Moscow.

In Madrid, Foreign Ministry sources said Friday a Soviet diplomat has been asked to leave Madrid after Spanish authorities discovered he was engaged in activities incompatible with his status.

No official comment was available on press reports that the Spanish and Soviet authorities had arranged the departure to avoid reciprocal action by the Kremlin and that three more diplomats were involved.

650 F-15 fighters grounded by U.S.

WASHINGTON, April 1 (AP) — The U.S. Air Force grounded its 650 F-15 jet fighters for the second time in less than five months Thursday because of suspected defects in a key tail part.

Lt. Col. Robert Nicholson said the planes were grounded for "immediate inspection" and that "we expect that some have already gone back into service."

The announcement said the grounding and inspection order followed discovery of defective "horizontal stabilizer actuators" last Monday during a pre-flight inspection of F-15s at Langley Air Force Base, Virginia.

These parts control the plane's pitch, or as the air force described it, the "nose up, nose down attitude."

Last November 15, the air force grounded most of its F-15s because of the same problem.

According to the announcement, both actuators on each F-15 will be inspected. All planes will undergo a four-hour checkup to determine which type of actuator they have, and some 200 are expected to go back into service immediately. The rest will undergo a 17-hour examination to determine if parts need replacement. The job is expected to take three to four weeks.

The governments of Saudi Arabia, Japan and Israel, which have F-15s in their air forces, have been notified, the air force said.

Shultz rules out 'Big 2' summit

WASHINGTON, April 1 (AFP) — U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz says a summit meeting between President Ronald Reagan and Soviet Communist Party Chairman Yuri Andropov has become unlikely because of the growing chill in bilateral ties.

In a meeting Thursday night with journalists, Shultz acknowledged that relations with Moscow were "tense." Both leaders have said they were unwilling to meet "unless something significant can be achieved," Shultz noted.

He said a "simple get-acquainted meeting" didn't "seem to be in the cards", but added that talks were continuing on a lower level.

The *New York Times* reported Friday that Reagan met the outgoing Soviet ambassador Anatoli Dobrynin, in February to assure him of the sincerity of U.S. negotiations with Moscow.

Quoting White House officials, the newspaper said Reagan told the ambassador he wanted to keep communication channels with Moscow open.

Shultz, when asked to comment on Reagan's proposal for an interim solution on intermediate-range nuclear missiles in Europe, denied it would be more logical to ask the Soviets to dismantle their oldest missiles — the SS-4 and SS-5 — rather than the new SS-20s.

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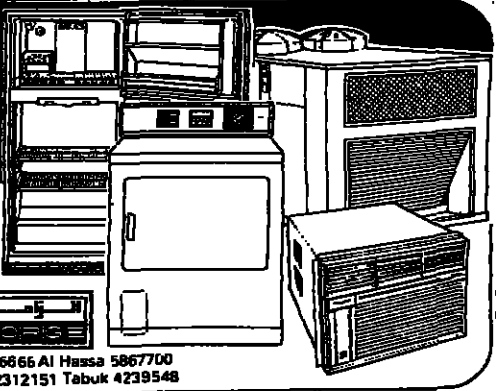
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Jeddah Traffic Week begins today; police cars to detect speed limit

By K.S. Ramkumar
Arab News Staff

JEDDAH, April 1 — The next time you drive along Madinah Road, take extra care to limit your speed to 70 kilometers per hour up to the bridge near the cement factory and to 100 kilometers per hour along the highway beyond that. Otherwise, a waiting traffic policeman will issue a "ticket" penalizing you at least SR300, a jail term, and confiscate your driving license and car.

The warning comes from Col. Shahat Ahmad Mufti, director of the Jeddah Traffic



Col. Shahat Ahmad Mufti

Department, who said in an interview with Arab News, prior to the commencement of the annual Traffic Safety Week from April 2, to 9 that "What holds good for Madinah Road also holds good for all the other city thoroughfares. No leniency will be shown to any motorist disregarding the traffic rules."

He said 50 traffic patrol cars here are now equipped with the most advanced radar speed detectors with a two kilometer range. The cars belong to a special division of the Jeddah Traffic Department run by Capt. Ali Ahmad Al-Shamrani and patrol all city highways. They are particularly active along the new and old Jeddah-Makkah expressways as well as Madinah Road where drivers tend not to observe the speed limit.

Col. Mufti reminded that the permitted speed near hospitals, schools and mosques is 25 kilometers per hour, and in main streets 50 kilometers per hour. On highways, motorists can proceed at a maximum 100 kilometers per hour.

He claimed that so far his department is hoping that erring drivers will correct their road behavior after a warning or two. "It's only when we find that an offender is not learning to behave that we strictly enforce the law. This has paid rich dividends to the department both in terms of fines and educating motorists," Col. Mufti added.

He appealed to car owners to maintain the condition of their vehicles and check the brakes and lights each time they drive. Such a precaution on the part of car owners will go a long way in minimizing accidents since a significant percentage of road accidents is attributed to vehicle defects. Also, a periodic check-up is essential to determine the road-worthiness of vehicles — a requirement which the traffic department is determined to seek with all seriousness and rigidity.

"Most accidents occur due to negligence on the part of owners not to subject their vehicles to a thorough check-up from time to time," Col. Mufti said. He gave a stern warning against irresponsible driving. "We'll be giving just one warning to such drivers and thereafter we will have no other option but to confiscate their driving license," he said.

He said fines for certain traffic violations here have gone up to SR1,000 plus one month confiscation of the vehicle. These include such offenses as parking one's car under bridges and flyovers and side-walks.

Those driving without license spend three days in prison and pay SR300 fine and also write a commitment not to drive again without a license. For minors, their parents and guardians sign the commitment on their behalf.

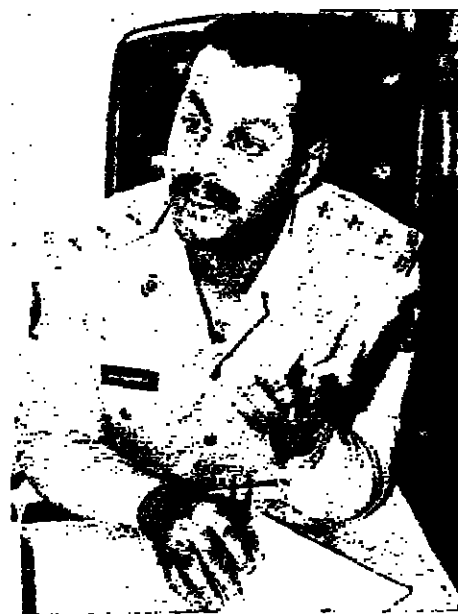
In the cases of hot-rodding or irresponsible driving, offenders stay in the traffic prison for seven days and pay SR600, half for hot-rodding and half for speeding.

Drivers involved in accidents will only be taken into custody within the narrowest limits and only if the investigation is not thorough. Col. Mufti said, adding that he has given instructions to remove vehicles involved in accidents as soon as possible, after the investigating officer writes all the necessary data on special cards.

The accident rate has come down in the city because of the strict enforcement of traffic rules, he said adding that it will be his department's endeavor to see that the accident graph continues to show a low trend.

Expressways have contributed considerably to the drop of accidents, especially on the Jeddah-Makkah and Jeddah-Taif routes as along the Taif-Makkah route. Whatever accidents occur are due to driving mistakes and defective vehicles.

The principal causes of motor accidents include ignorance of driving rules, not possessing a driving license, recklessness and excessive speeding, not abiding by traffic rules and road signs and driving when tired. Trucks and heavy vehicles account for a large share of accidents on highways, although they constitute a small percentage of the total number of vehicles in the Kingdom.



Abdullah Saleh Ragaban

Col. Mufti said the opening of three new branch traffic offices, aims at providing better traffic services and removing bottlenecks. He said the renewal applications for driving licenses and car registrations will soon be received and returned by mail to save time and facilitate the procedures.

Agents who process paper work for third parties have been strictly banned from entering the traffic departments by order of Public Security Chief Gen. Abdullah Al-Sheikh. The instructions also apply to car agency messengers. The order followed complaints that intermediaries were becoming active within the traffic department premises and charging exorbitant sums for the "services" rendered.

Col. Mufti said his department never discriminates against expatriates. "The law of the land and, for that matter the traffic rules, are the same for both the citizens of the Kingdom and expatriates," he said.

In an appeal to expatriates, Col. Mufti said: "You are here in your second home. We never forget that your presence here is to help us in building our country. No matter in which field you are, we wish to pay you in return by saving your life."

He asked them not to hesitate to come to his department to resolve any question concerning traffic matters. "To simplify your understanding of the traffic rules, we are using the international rules for traffic safety. This, we think will enable you to fully grasp and appreciate our efforts to make your stay in this country pleasant and safe. The traffic department wishes you a very happy and safe life and all the courtesies possible during your stay in the Kingdom."

Tomography gives accurate diagnosis, specialist says

By Suresh Shah
Arab News Staff

JEDDAH, April 1 — Computerized tomography (CT), different from regular X-rays, is one of the easiest and accurate ways of diagnosis for spinal, brain and liver diseases, according to Dr. John Fries, director of radiology at St. Anthony's Medical Center at St. Louis, USA.

Under the system no invasives are required and the inside of the body can be seen much better, particularly in patients suffering from spinal, brain and liver diseases in addition to retro-peritoneal area (behind abdominal cavity).

Dr. Fries, along with Peter McAtamney, technical applications manager for International General Electric, London, are here to deliver a speech at the symposium on "Computerized tomography and nuclear magnetic resonance", organized by King Abdul Aziz University, to be held at the Jeddah Meridien Hotel Saturday.

Dr. Fries will talk about CT clinical experi-



Dr. John Fries

ences in the U.S. and McAtamney will speak on technical introduction to CT and nuclear magnetic resonance (NMR). Dr. Beydoun, director of diagnostic imaging at the Dr. Erfan General Hospital here, will speak on CT experiences in Saudi Arabia. Dr. Zahran, dean of the Medical Sciences Faculty will welcome the guests and Dr. Al-Dabbagh, chairman of radiology, will be the coordinator.

"CT is one of the best for diagnosis of brain diseases such as strokes, brain tumor and hemorrhage, while it is almost outstanding for retro-peritoneal diseases," Dr. Fries told Arab News. In liver diseases, it is possible to see the edge of the liver, but with CT it is possible to see the inside without any surgery," he added.

Another area is mediastinum (between the two lungs), where examination becomes easier with CT. "It is important for lymph nodes and tumors as the examination is easier. With the experience of about 4,500 spine disease cases, it has been established that diagnosis accuracy is approximately 95 percent," said Dr. Fries.



Peter McAtamney

Prayer Times

Saturday	Makkah	Madinah	Riyadh	Dammam	Buraidah	Taibah
Fajr (Dawn)	4:49	4:48	4:20	4:06	4:30	4:59
Dhuhr (Noon)	12:25	12:25	11:57	11:43	12:08	12:38
Asr (Afternoon)	3:50	3:54	3:25	3:13	3:37	4:08
Maghreb (Sunset)	6:37	6:39	6:10	5:58	6:22	6:53
Isha (Night)	8:07	8:09	7:40	7:28	7:52	8:23

Simple rules for safety

JEDDAH, April 1 — The annual Traffic Safety Week begins here Saturday and will conclude on April 9. Makkah Governor Prince Majed will officiate at a public reception on the Corniche on April 7.

"It's an open invitation for all to take part in the function and watch the police parade and fireworks set off from aboard a ship," City Traffic Controller Abdullah Saleh Ragaban said. He indicated that during the week safety stickers will be distributed, an exhibition will take place and there will be lectures in schools and universities.

Jeddah Traffic Department Director Col. Shahat Ahmad Mufti recently gave a presentation on local television about the Traffic Safety Week.

"We are celebrating our annual event with the goal of reminding everyone that the one precious asset we all have is our life," he said.

In a special appeal to drivers, Col. Mufti said: "You as a driver can reduce the number of fatalities and disabilities caused by road accidents if you are slightly more careful."

Mufti advised everyone to apply the following simple rules for safety.

- Check your car periodically;
- Make sure your brakes are operating and in good condition;
- Check the position of the rear-view mirror;
- Check the side-view mirror;
- Start the engine and check for normal conditions and sounds;
- Always pay attention to the road;
- Watch for traffic signal lights and traffic signs;
- Never look at your passengers... pay attention to the road ahead;
- Watch for other cars as they pass by;
- Keep to the right; and
- Use your turn signal before turning right or left.

Col. Mufti said that courteous driving methods, and simple maintenance checks will ensure less accidents. A road safety manual outlining courteous driving tips, accident statistics and a check-list for keeping your car in good and safe condition are printed in Arabic and English from Haji Hussein Alireza & Co. Ltd. and will be distributed during Traffic Week by members of the Jeddah Traffic Department.

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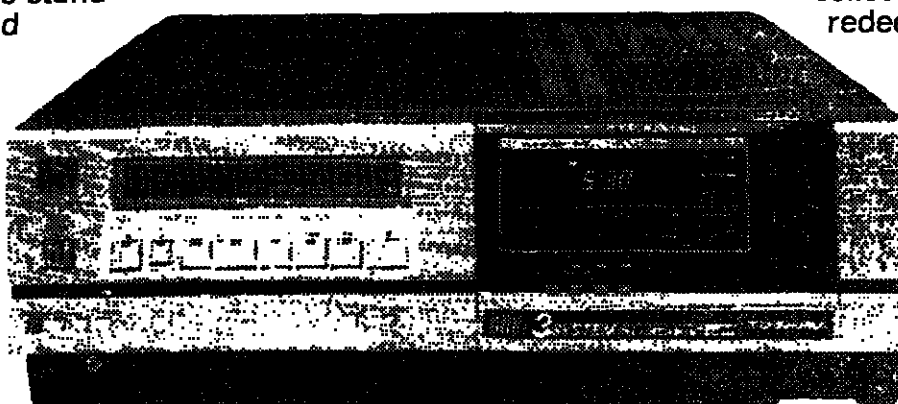
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سكنا من الاول

Reagan-Begin meeting ruled out

Negative Israeli attitude hampering pullout--U.S.

WASHINGTON, April 1 (Agencies) — U.S. officials said there has not been any proposal from Israel for Prime Minister Menachem Begin to visit the United States to confer with President Ronald Reagan on the situation in Lebanon.

"There is nothing as far as I know that is planned at this point," said Alan Romberg, the deputy State Department spokesman, said when asked about Israeli radio reports mentioning such a possibility.

U.S. officials were pessimistic after the latest American efforts failed to break the deadlock in negotiations on the withdrawal of foreign troops from Lebanon.

A State Department specialist said that "we are virtually back to square one" in the talks and blamed their deadlock on what he called the "increasingly negative" attitude of the Israeli government.

Resist Tel Aviv's pressure--Ford

JEDDAH, April 1 — Former U.S. President Gerald Ford said Friday that President Ronald Reagan should not yield to Israeli or any kind of pressure in his Mideast peace endeavors.

Ford told *Al-Jazirah* newspaper that pressures should be brought on Israel and the Arab states to sit at the negotiating table. He also said that the United States should recognize all the parties concerned, including the Palestine Liberation Organization.

But the former U.S. president added, the PLO should on its part, recognize United Nations resolution No. 242 of November 22, 1967, and then only the United States could recognize the organization. However, he said, he was not yet ready to meet with a PLO official.

Ford said that he had been impressed by the personality of King Fahd when he once met him during a state visit to Saudi Arabia as president of the United States. He said "I was impressed by the then crown prince of Saudi Arabia as a leader seeking real solutions to many an Arab and international problem."

In his interview with *Al-Jazirah*, Ford denied rumors that he intended to run in the next U.S. presidential race. He added that he would vote for President Reagan if the latter sought reelection.

Ford hoped that the PLO would accept some kind of representation for it by King Hussein of Jordan. He also said that all foreign forces should, prior to anything else, withdraw from Lebanon. Then work could start to find a legitimate Lebanese government capable of imposing its authority throughout the country and of governing all the people of that country.

The former U.S. head of state said that Congress had committed a major error by sanctioning an additional \$475 million worth of aid to Israel. He added that the conflict between Israel and the Arabs was an irritant in his country's relations with Saudi Arabia and other Arab states.

He also said that the United States should keep all the options open to resolve the Middle East dispute, including the interruption of military aid to Israel. He admitted that the Zionist lobby was a real pressure group in the United States.

African states told to stand by PLO

ARUSHA, Tanzania, April 1 (Agencies) — An international conference on the Palestinians ended here Friday with a call to African states to increase their support for the Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO).

The conference, attended by 20 African states, Iraq, Syria and Cuba, urged all African countries to give the PLO full diplomatic status in their capitals.

The meeting, which is preparing Africa's position for an international conference on the Palestinians in Paris next month, also urged Africa to step up its support for the Palestinians.

It called on the Organization of African Unity (OAU), to take "additional initiatives to support the Palestinian national struggle." The OAU backs the PLO and condemns Israel in its annual summit meeting resolutions.

Other recommendations included a call to African jurists to cooperate with their Palestinian counterparts on a study of parallels between the "struggles of the people of South Africa and Palestine."

African states should also consider ways of meeting "the threat that Israel poses to Africa's security in view of Israel's close collaboration with the (South African) apartheid regime," a conference document said.

Mubarak to confer with Zhao today

PEKING, April 1 (AP) — Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak arrived here Friday for talks on increased military and economic aid to Egypt, expanded trade and the two nations' differing views on the Middle East question.

The visit is the first to China by an Egyptian head of state, and Mubarak's third trip here.

Mubarak, arriving by official plane from Cairo, was greeted at the airport by Chinese Health Minister Cui Yueli. He did not make an arrival statement and went directly to a government guest house.

No activities were scheduled Friday night. His three-day visit formally begins Saturday.

BRIEFS

BEIRUT (AFP) — An explosion in West Beirut early Friday destroyed a Palestinian commercial enterprise and the office of a local Lebanese organization, the official Lebanese radio announced.

DAMASCUS (AFP) — A senior Syrian official has hailed the Soviet Union as a "true friend" following a communique issued in Moscow Wednesday accusing Israel of preparing a military strike against Syria, the Syrian News Agency reported.

PESHAWAR (R) — Afghan Mujahideen destroyed six military helicopters and killed 20 Soviet troops in a rocket attack on Jalalabad Airport in southeastern Afghanistan.

Bitterness here was deepened by the fact that "new ideas" outlined in meetings with Israeli and Lebanese officials here two weeks ago apparently did nothing to revive the talks.

U.S. presidential envoy Philip Habib left Israel for Washington Thursday after failing to advance the negotiations.

Romberg said Habib would probably be in the United States at least a week and would attend to personal business and come to Washington for consultations before returning to the Middle East.

The spokesman declined comment on a statement by PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat indicating he will not agree to the Reagan initiative for Middle East peace talks to involve Israel and Jordan, with Jordan representing Palestinian interests.

Romberg said officials "have not seen the full text" of Arafat's remarks. However, another official said they were seen as "not helpful" to U.S. efforts to bring Jordan's King Hussein into talks on the future of the Israeli-occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip.

Romberg said, "we can only restate our view that the prospects of peace would be best served by broadened Arab participation in direct negotiations based on U.N. Security Council Resolution 242" which recognizes Israel.

Regarding charges carried by the Soviet news agency Tass that Israel was preparing to attack Syria's forces in Lebanon's Bekaa Valley, Romberg said they were apparently wrong and "calculated to inflame emotions and increase tensions in the region."

"We don't have any information to suggest that a military buildup (by Israel) is under way or that Israel is contemplating military action in the Bekaa or against Syria," Romberg said.

Bangladesh eases political curbs

DHAKA, April 1 (R) — Major political parties reopened their offices Friday as a year-old ban on political activities in Bangladesh was relaxed on the orders of the country's military ruler, Gen. Hussein Muhammad Ershad.

He announced a week ago that political parties would be allowed to hold meetings inside their offices to discuss national issues as a prelude to the restoration of democracy.

The decision was designed to pave the way for a national dialogue between the political parties and the army to determine the country's future.

Among the parties that reopened their offices were the Awami League, headed by Hasina Wazed, the leftist National Socialist Party (JSD) and the Islamic fundamentalist party, Jamate Islami. Others are expected to reopen soon.

The parties said they would concentrate on organizational matters and the dialogue with the country's military rulers, which is expected to start next week.

Ershad has said he wants to reach a consensus with the country's politicians on basic national issues such as defense, foreign policy and finance. He favors a strong parliament with a loyal opposition and an independent judiciary to uphold the constitution.

their regime," a conference document said.

In another development, Muhammad Melhem, the expelled mayor of a Palestinian town on the Israeli-occupied West Bank of the Jordan River, met with Japan's Foreign Minister Shintaro Abe Friday to urge Japan's intercession in the Middle East conflict.

Abe told Melhem in Tokyo that Japan will make efforts to advance peace in the Middle East through "various contacts" with the United States, Foreign Ministry officials said.

Fiji soldier kills Lebanese doctor

TEL AVIV, April 1 (Agencies) — A United Nations spokesman said Friday the organization is investigating the killing of a South Lebanese doctor on Wednesday night by a soldier of the Fiji contingent attached to the U.N. Interim Force in Lebanon (UNIFIL).

Press reports said Dr. Halil Aloush was killed at a road checkpoint manned by troops after he complained about obscene remarks the soldiers allegedly made to his wife. The UNIFIL commander, Gen. William Callaghan said the Fijian soldier has been arrested and will be tried.

with an official welcoming ceremony and reviewing of an honor guard at the Great Hall of the People. He then will begin talks with Premier Zhao Ziyang who visited Cairo last December and on Sunday is expected to meet top leader Deng Xiaoping.

Egyptian-Chinese relations are excellent and foreign diplomatic analysts said they did not expect major announcements since Zhao already visited Egypt for high-level talks.

He leaves Monday for North Korea where Egyptian reports said he will urge that government to halt arms sales to Iran for use in the Iran-Iraq war.

tan last Monday, an Afghan resistance news agency reported.

TEL AVIV (AFP) — A leader of the Israeli-backed Village League in the West Bank community of Fatha was found dead in his car early Friday near the Palestinian refugee camp of Tulkarem, Israeli military sources said. They said Abdul Akhi Fattal had been killed by unknown assailants.

PARIS (AFP) — French Minister for External Relations Claude Cheysson Friday said France regretted the decision of the United Nations General Assembly to hold a conference on Palestine here.

Chad urges solution of Aouzou issue

UNITED NATIONS, April 1 (Agencies) — Chad handed in a resolution here Thursday night that would have the U.N. Security Council call for bilateral settlement of its territorial dispute with Libya taking advantage of help from the Organization of African Unity.

The resolution was submitted about the time the council adjourned debate on Chad's complaint of Libyan occupation of the part of its territory.

Chad is not a member of the 15-nation council. The council's rules allow it to vote on a resolution submitted by a non-member provided a council member asks for a vote.

Both Chad and Libya claim an area called the Aouzou Strip now held by Libya. Chad's resolution would have the council express concern at the differences between the two countries and:

— Ask the parties to resolve their differences by peaceful means in line with principles of the U.N. and OAU charters that call for respect for political independence, sovereignty and territorial integrity.

— Note with satisfaction that both have declared their readiness to discuss and resolve their differences peacefully and meanwhile avoid any action that could aggravate the situation.

— Appeal to the parties to make use of the machinery for peaceful settlement of disputes available within the regional organization.

— Decide to keep the matter under review.

Earlier several African speakers backed Chad's claim to the Aouzou Strip and called for an end to Libya's occupation.

Arabs seek U.N. council's meeting on poisonings

UNITED NATIONS, New York, April 1 (AFP) — Arab countries have called for a United Nations Security Council meeting on "the recent poisoning of Palestinian students" on the Israeli-occupied West Bank.

The call for a Security Council session was in response to a letter from the Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO) that accused Israel of being responsible for the "poisonings" and urged the creation of an "international medical committee" to investigate the phenomenon.

According to the PLO, more than 1,000 Palestinian students have fallen ill in the Jenin region.

If a Security Council meeting is held, it is not expected to be until next week.

Israel launches terror campaign to expel West Bankers

NICOSIA, Cyprus April 1 (AP) — Israel is trying to expel the population of the West Bank through a systematic terror campaign against them, said a joint statement by Palestinian religious and professional groups carried by Wafa, the official Palestinian news agency Friday.

The statement appealed to the United Nations, the International Red Cross and other international organizations to "take the necessary measures to ensure the protection of the Palestinian people and their safety under Israeli occupation."

Wafa said the joint statement was issued by the Higher Islamic Committee in occupied Jerusalem, the Palestine Federation of Professional Associations, the Federation of Charitable Associations and the West Bank Federation of Chambers of Commerce. The Nicosia based news agency distributed the full text of the statement under a Damas-



POISON VICTIM: Hundreds of Palestinian schoolgirls fell victim to poisoning by Israel in Jenin this week. Picture shows a girl, affected by poisoning, being carried to hospital.

linked with this abhorrent scheme. We hold the Israeli authorities fully responsible before the whole world for the threat to the lives of our citizens.

We accuse the Israeli authorities of flagrant disregard of their obligatory responsibilities under international conventions. The statement then called on "the United Nations, the International National Red, the World Health Organization (UNESCO) and other international human rights organizations to shoulder their responsibilities and conduct a responsible international investigation to determine the scale and dimension of the crimes to which we are exposed."

The statement spoke of the mass poisoning of hundreds of Arab people in the West Bank. The statement also referred to the three-week old curfew imposed on the Palestinian refugee camp of Jaizoun, claiming that "elderly people and children are losing their lives as a result."

The Palestinian statement said "events point to the existence of a hostile Israeli policy which bodes extreme danger for the lives of the Palestinians and for their political existence. The mass poisoning of our children is

"The safety and security of the Palestinian people cannot be achieved without the withdrawal of the Israeli occupation troops and without the establishment of an independent Palestinian state under international legitimacy."

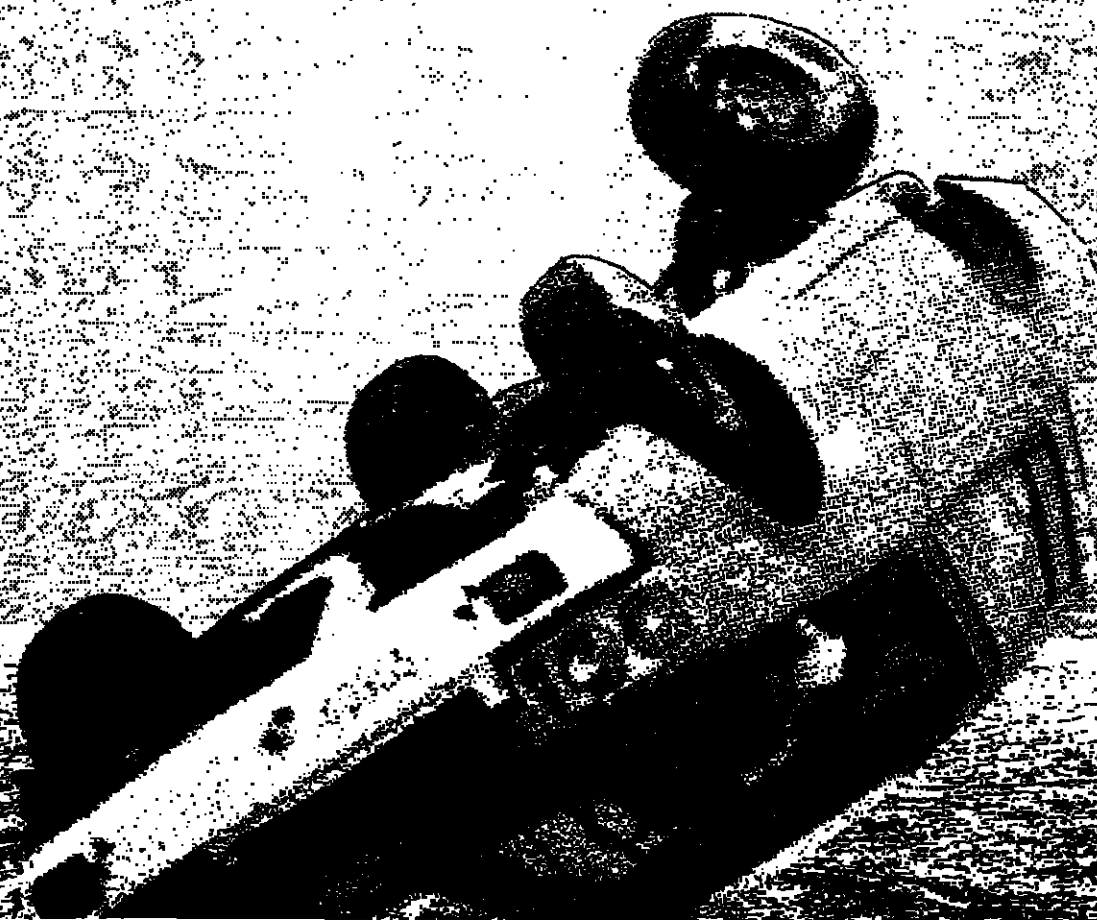
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حکومت افغانستان

Uncertainty over return to civilian rule

Memories turn Argentines bitter

BUENOS AIRES, April 1 (AFP) — One year after the Argentine attack on the Falkland Islands on April 2, 1982, there is an air of uncertainty in the country over the return to democratic civilian government by next January, promised by the military regime after the Falklands defeat last June.

The war memories of the 10-week-long campaign in the Falklands (Malvinas Islands to the Argentines), which seemed to be slipping into the past, have been reawakened with more bitterness than ever.

Anger is rising against a regime which seems unable to solve Argentina's growing problems and has been so enfeebled that its military leadership, in power since 1976, envisages a return to constitutional government.

The public has become aware of the way news was manipulated during the Falklands War, which ended when Argentine field commander, Gen. Mario Benjamin Menendez, surrendered to the British in Port Stanley on June 14 1982. This has increased the gap between the people and their military

leaders. Only a short while ago Gen. Leopoldo Galtieri, the wartime leader, and his Foreign Minister Nicanor Costa Mendez were national heroes. Today both are in the dock with other civilian and military leaders as they appear before a commission inquiring into the running of the Falklands campaign.

The country's internal economic and social problems have also worsened since the Falklands, as symbolized by a nationwide general strike last Monday. In addition, political parties, wracked by inner conflicts, seem powerless to work out a joint program to overcome the crisis.

The situation is not made any easier by the fact that no progress has been made over the mystery of an estimated 16,000 "missing" people, generally believed to have been liquidated by the security forces.

There is confusion and doubt over whether parliamentary elections will be held, as promised, on Oct. 30 to prepare the way for a return to constitutional government. President Reynaldo Bignone, also an army gen-

eral, has the delicate and difficult task of governing during a period of transition.

As one witty newspaper commentator noted recently: "Argentina is not being flooded because our rivers and streams are overflowing, but because the country is sinking."

President Bignone is caught between the devil and the deep sea. On one side trade unions and political parties slam his policies while on the other military officers attack the inability of his economists to develop production and slow or halt inflation which has broken all records.

The more conservative officers do not forgive President Bignone for his new foreign policy, orientated toward a Third World position among the nonaligned nations, and gestures to President Fidel Castro of Cuba.

Gen. Christino Nicolaides, the regime's strong man, has affirmed that "the return to democracy is irreversible." But even he has been unable to stop rumors of varying intensity sweeping Buenos Aires of military coups to prevent this process.

Secret documents reveal FBI 'misled' axis powers on defense

WASHINGTON, April 1 (AP) — Previously secret documents show that Federal Bureau of Investigation Director J. Edgar Hoover and military intelligence officials were collaborating to send misleading information on Pearl Harbor defenses to the axis powers a few months prior to the Japanese attack on the naval base.

Hoover and the other U.S. officials were responding to a list of questions German spy masters gave one of their agents to get answered during an assignment in the United States in the summer of 1941.

That spy — Dusko Popov — really was a double agent working for Great Britain and the United States and was given bogus information to relay to the Germans.

Previously, some historians said such specific interest shown in Pearl Harbor by German intelligence should have been a warning of a possible sneak attack and that Hoover erred by failing to share the information with the White House or military intelligence agencies.

The internal FBI memos, kept secret more

than 40 years, provide no clear basis for judging how much significance was attached to the Pearl Harbor inquiries in relation to more general questions about such things as U.S. aircraft production and pilot training.

But they show that the gist of the questionnaire was passed to military intelligence officers and that a series of exchanges followed over what kind of information — some of it concocted — would be given Popov to relay to the Nazis.

The questions Popov brought with him were encoded on microdots — a technique new to U.S. officials at the time — and Hoover sent a letter to the White House suggesting President Franklin D. Roosevelt "might be interested in the attached photographs which show one of the methods used by the German espionage system in transmitting messages to its agents."

Hoover enclosed a translation of part of the questionnaire, but not the part about Pearl Harbor, to show the type information contained on microdots.

FBI spokesman Roger Young acknow-

ledged Thursday that Hoover's Sept. 3, 1941 letter seemed aimed more at impressing the president with FBI discovery of the microdot technique than relaying specific intelligence information.

But he said documents just declassified make clear Hoover acted properly in sharing information gleaned from the microdots with army and navy intelligence officers.

It is not clear from the FBI memos when the agency got the Popov questionnaire or how soon it was passed to navy and army intelligence.

But a Sept. 30, 1941 memo refers to a telephone call from C.F. Lanman of the New York office — the special agent dealing directly with Popov — pressing for some response from the military intelligence agencies.

That memo says "Lanman was told that the information contained in the questionnaire furnished Popov by the Germans had been paraphrased and furnished to the representatives of ONI and G-2." That reference was to the Office of Naval Intelligence and the army's military intelligence division.

The next day, an army intelligence colonel supplied the FBI with some information to be given Popov and it was forwarded to New York by Hoover on Oct. 3 — exactly a month after his letter to the White House.

An Oct. 20 memo from R.G. Fletcher, an official in the FBI's domestic intelligence division, to his division chief said, "the entire questionnaire furnished Popov concerning naval matters was rephrased and discussed with ONI. ..."

The memo suggested a German request for "details regarding new American torpedo net defenses (at Pearl Harbor) and to what extent these are in use" be singled out for forming a bogus response for Popov to use.

Bonn to probe location of dioxin waste

BONN, April 1 (AFP) — West German authorities decided to open an official investigation to determine whether toxic dioxin waste from the Italian 1976 Seveso tragedy was currently in this country.

The decision, taken by the Interior Ministry here, which is responsible for environmental issues, follows claims this week by France's new secretary of state for the environment, Hugues Bouchard, that the waste was brought to France last year and then transferred to a neighboring European country.

French authorities Wednesday placed Bernard Paringaud, the head of a local company specialized in the elimination of chemical waste, Spedilec, under preventive custody on charges of having failed to register the "characteristics and the destination of an imported shipment."

According to police reports in the northern French town of Amiens, Spedilec passed several drums of Seveso dioxin waste through customs in St. Quentin, also in north France, on Sept. 17 last. The dioxin arrived in France on Sept. 10. The shipment was then reloaded and transferred to a still undetermined site.

The Swiss chemical company Hoffmann-Laroche, parent firm of the Italian Icmesa plant in Seveso responsible for the July 1976 tragedy in which over 700 persons had to be evacuated when a huge dioxin cloud escaped from the factory, received a legally certified document last December saying that the waste had been buried under "five meters of clay."

Meanwhile, Willibald Kimmel, a lawyer for the Rueckstand Beseitigung GmbH chemical waste stockpiling firm in Hesse, said that Paringaud of Spedilec wrote to the company in September last year to obtain information on the possibility of stocking the dioxin waste in West Germany.

But the manager told Paringaud by telephone prior authorization would have to be requested from federal and regional authorities. Paringaud made no further contact with the firm, Kimmel said.

Dioxin, a herbicide derivative, is a poison thought to be linked to cancer. While its effects are not fully known, scientists believe it is responsible for irreversible malformations in children whose mothers came into contact with it.

The Seveso dioxin cloud caused severe skin ailments in the region, which was declared a disaster area with over 80,000 animals killed and a series of abortions to ward off the threat of women giving birth to malformed babies.

A spokesman for West German Interior Minister Friedrich Zimmermann Thursday said that despite intensive investigation here, there was no credible proof that the waste was currently located in the country. Zimmermann has asked French authorities to send on further information on the case.

The ministry said that the last available trace of the dioxin waste dated back to Sept. 20, when it was stocked in a St. Quentin warehouse, and suggested that it was probably still there. (Meanwhile, in Berlin, a Foreign Ministry spokesman denied that the waste was in East Germany.)

S. Korea urges unification talks

SEOUL, April 1 (AP) — The South Korean government, renewing its call for dialogue aimed at unification of the Korean peninsula, asked Friday that North Korea return to the conference table at an early date.

The appeal was contained in a statement by Minister of National Unification Sohn Ja-shik, who said he regretted North Korea's "intransigency and a series of provocative and anti-national actions they have recently perpetrated."

Sohn reminded the North of his proposals Feb. 1 which included convening a preparatory meeting at the Panmunjom truce village in March.

Declaring that the proposal still "remains in effect," Sohn said "even though our hoped-for period for a preliminary meeting has already passed, we will sit face to face with them (the North Koreans) and openheartedly discuss all issues at any time if only they come to the conference table."

"Confident that North Korea won't be able for long to avert their face from our open-minded and inclusive proposal for dialogue, and that therefore our proposal will without fail be materialized in the not too distant future, we will continue to exert all our available endeavors with perseverance," he said.

North and South Korea, foes in the 1950-53 Korean War, began formal talks on national unification in 1972 but the North boycotted the dialogue a year later for political reasons. Little contact has been made since.

Grenada charges America with aggressive intentions

MONTREAL, Canada, April 1 (AP) — U.S. President Ronald Reagan's charge that Grenada is building a military airport with aid from the Soviet Union indicates the United States is contemplating "armed aggression" against the Caribbean island, Grenada's foreign affairs minister said Thursday.

"The Reagan administration knows the airport is not a threat but was launched a campaign of lies and slander to soften up public opinion," Unison Whiteman told a news conference.

He said the airport, slated for completion next year, has been under construction for several years and is intended mainly to

expand the tourist trade.

Last week, Reagan showed aerial photographs of the airport to demonstrate how the Soviets were spreading their military influence "to challenge our vital interests."

Whiteman said he is on a two-week visit to North America to alert the public to a "number of signs" that point to an imminent U.S. invasion, "directly or indirectly, through mercenaries who are training in Miami."

He said 300 U.S. fighter jets and 77 warships are currently on maneuvers in the area and that several American jets violated Grenada's airspace earlier this week.

"Reagan is looking for a Gulf of Tonkin

incident", Whiteman charged, referring to a reported naval clash in 1964 which then-President Lyndon Johnson used as justification for building up U.S. military forces in Vietnam.

Two years ago, Grenada also predicted the United States was plotting to overthrow the leftist people's revolutionary government which took power in 1979 in a coup. "The earlier predictions did not materialize because of international pressure," Whiteman said.

He accused Washington of attempting to "economically destabilize" Grenada by trying to block aid from the International Monetary

Fund and the European Economic Community.

Known as the isle of spice, Grenada is the world's second biggest producer of nutmeg. It is a mainly agricultural country that a larger airport is needed for that.

"Tourists must now land in another island and transfer to a smaller plane because our current airport is too small," he explained.

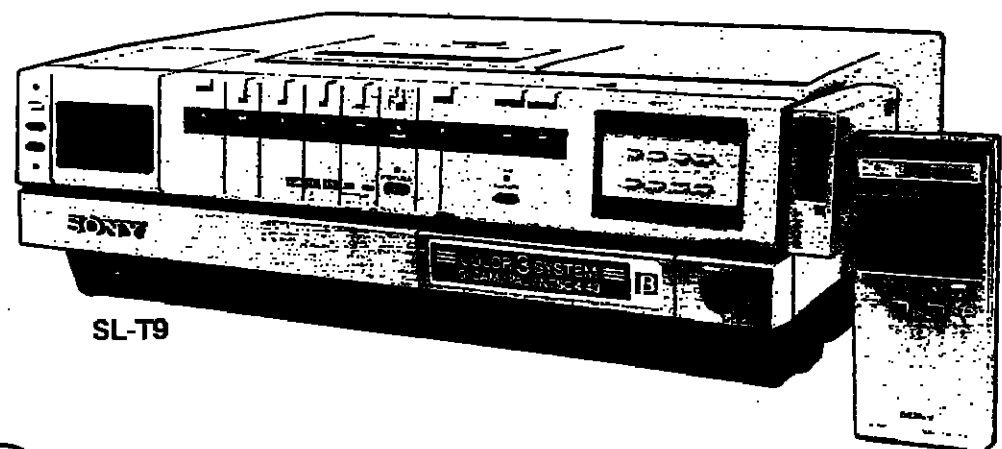
Whiteman freely admitted there are 300 Cubans helping build the larger facility, adding that other non-Communist bloc countries are participating. "A British company is making the navigation equipment as well as a Finnish company," he noted.

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Solidarity broadcast mocks at 2 officials

WARSAW, April 1 (Agencies) — Radio Solidarity broadcast a four-minute satirical comment here Thursday which was heard by many Poles despite jamming of the frequency by an unidentified pop music transmitter.

The underground radio, voice of the now-banned Solidarity independent trade union movement, took pot shots at Polish government figures, particularly official spokesman Jerzy Urban and the deputy interior minister, Gen. Boguslaw Stachura.

The speakers, a man and a woman, mocked Gen. Stachura for having announced six months ago that Radio Solidarity was finished. They suggested that he might have been playing an April Fool's joke — six months early.

BRIEFS

KINGSTON, Jamaica (AP) — A man was slashed to death with a razor while seated in a barber's chair getting a shave, police reported Thursday. The victim, identified as Raymond Warren, 17, was a college student. Authorities said Guddon Davis, 20, a barber's apprentice, was charged with murder in a Kingston court. The slashing occurred Wednesday following an argument over a girl, according to police.

CIUDAD VICTORIA, Mexico (AP) — Ten persons were killed and 23 others seriously injured when a bus carrying vacationing employees of Pemex, the government oil monopoly, crashed into a ravine, police said. Rogelio Avalos, spokesman for the federal highway police, said the bus went off a curve, 436 miles north of Mexico City, late Wednesday.

NEW YORK (AFP) — An inflatable 26-meter tall giant gorilla will be displayed on the roof of the Empire State Building skyscraper next week to celebrate the 50th anniversary of the classic Hollywood film *King Kong*. In the film — a worldwide instant box office success which is still being shown — the gorilla climbs up to the roof of the skyscraper and is machine-gunned by fighter planes. Its body hurtles to the ground below. A small museum on aspects of the film will also be opened in the foyer of the Empire State Building. The inflatable gorilla will be displayed for 10 days from April 7.

MUNICH, West Germany (R) — A Munich court sentenced a 42-year-old woman secretary to three years in jail Thursday on charges of spying for East Germany. The court said Ingeborg Behnisch, former secretary to the Memmingen Air Force Base commander, sold results of an exercise at the Bavarian base to the Communists last year. It also said she stole maps of base security installations but had been caught before she could pass them on. The court said the East Germans recruited her in January last year. She was arrested last July.

The FM broadcast, heard clearly in some neighborhoods, was barely audible in downtown Warsaw. But even there, the radio's signature jingle came through loud and clear at the beginning and end of the broadcast, which had been promised in leaflets distributed in the capital. Radio Solidarity's identification jingle uses the first 10 notes of a tune dating from the Polish resistance against the Nazi occupation.

Turning to Poland's current economic woes, the clandestine radio ridiculed official press comments suggesting that the situation was on the mend. It said government-ordered price hikes were intended to "take the shirt off our back." But if the opposition were completely muzzled and there were nothing to eat, "who will feed the government spokesman, Jerzy Urban," the Solidarity commentators asked.

Urban, who has the physique of a bon vivant, has to live with some off-the-cuff remarks he made about U.S. economic sanctions imposed against Poland when martial law snuffed out Solidarity's "springtime" in December 1981. Urban was quoted as saying that the Polish people would suffer from the sanctions but that the authorities did not have to worry about starving.

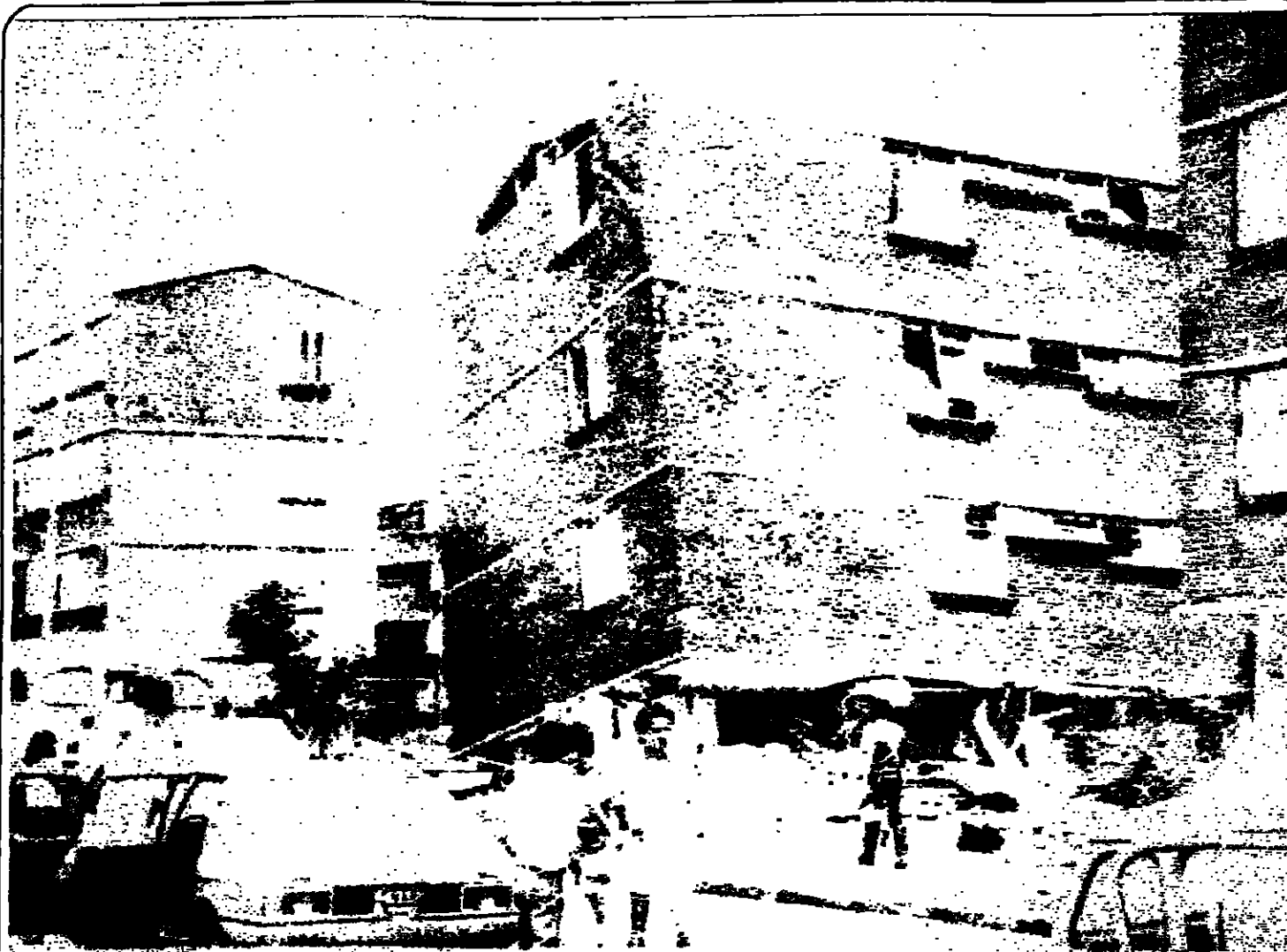
The underground radio also insisted that, despite government claims that Solidarity had constantly used "negative slogans," the trade union movement had adopted a completely positive program.

Radio Solidarity last broadcast on Jan. 24 — opening day of the trial of station personnel before a military court which sentenced the defendants to prison terms ranging from seven months to 4½ years. Radio Solidarity first went on the air April 12 last year. Often jammed, it was able to continue its scheduled programs until last July, when security police rounded up many of its staffers.

Meanwhile, Polish leader Gen. Wojciech Jaruzelski has delivered a candid appraisal of the country's social and economic frustrations and conceded "the nation has the right to be embittered." Jaruzelski, commonly regarded as a stern and remote leader, said, "I know what it means when there is a lack of appropriate material, when something has not been delivered on time again, when after eight hours of toil one has to stand in line and in the evening ponder how to make ends meet."

He pledged that authorities "will not retreat" from announced measures to reduce incompetence, waste and inefficiency in the workplace. The government revealed last week a three-year austerity plan intended to spur productivity and restrain wages and prices.

In another development, national Solidarity leaders have announced they will abstain from all demonstrations during the visit by Pope John Paul to his homeland in June.



QUAKE HAVOC: An earthquake that hit Popayan in Colombia on Thursday leaves the first-story apartment of this four-story building crushed. The occupants of the crushed apartment were seriously injured but managed to crawl out, neighbors said.

Journalist staged protest fast in Salvador

SAN SALVADOR, April 1 (AP) — An American journalist who spent five days in the jail said Thursday he fasted two days to protest his confinement and wants to leave El Salvador as soon as he is permitted.

"I'm scared to walk the streets," said Thomas J. Western, a free-lance journalist who was freed Wednesday pending an inquiry into alleged connections with leftist guerrillas. But Western, 32, said he loves El Salvador and hopes to return. He also said he has no complaints about his treatment during his detention.

Fraser resigns from parliament

CANBERRA, April 1 (R) — Former Australian Prime Minister Malcolm Fraser resigned from parliament Thursday after 28 years in politics and 26 days after his government was swept from power by the Labor Party.

He accepted full responsibility for the defeat in the March 5 general election which he called eight months earlier than necessary in a campaign against militant trade unions.

Western was released on the condition that he stay in El Salvador while the treasury police continues an investigation into an alleged arms-smuggling operation. Suspicion that Western was involved led to his arrest.

Joan Ambrose-Newton, another free-lance journalist who was arrested together with Western, was freed from house arrest Wednesday. She said Thursday she plans to leave El Salvador on Saturday but will return to work here.

Western works for a number of news organizations, including AP Radio, Miss

Newton, 31, a South African-born, naturalized American citizen, works for the British Broadcasting Corp. and NBC.

Western said he was interrogated by five police officers during normal daytime hours. "I never felt my life was threatened," he said. "To the very end they insisted I knew something about arms shipments." Western said. "They asked me if I had been to Cuba, Nicaragua or Russia, and they asked about my politics."

"I said that I am a Democrat and my parents are Republicans, as far as I know," he said. "At first they tried to put words in my mouth. I think they really thought I was a subversive, but by the third day it was obvious I was not," he said.

Western refused to eat for two days to protest his confinement, but began eating again Tuesday.

On the battle front, government troops began to recapture a section of Morazan province near the Torula River a day after leftist guerrillas claimed to have overrun an army battalion in the area, reporters who went to the area said.

Dust cloud bars some sun energy

WASHINGTON, April 1 (AP) — A dust cloud from a Mexican volcano is blocking up to 20 percent of the available sun energy in some areas, which may lead to a drop in the amount of heat collected by solar systems, the U.S. government reported Thursday.

The cloud, which is virtually invisible, was emitted from the volcano El Chichon in southern Mexico last year and has been spreading since then.

Kirby Hanson and Edwin Flowers, researchers at the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, said direct solar radiation arriving at the earth's surface during cloudless days has been down between 15 percent and 20 percent since October.

The researchers said the solar systems most affected are those which focus the direct radiation of the sun on a particular point. These so-called focusing systems use only direct radiation. While direct radiation has declined, scattered radiation from the sun has increased, the researchers said.

The result is that radiation collected from flat-plate collectors, a common type that uses both scattered and direct radiation, has declined very little, they said.

Scientists have debated whether the El Chichon eruption will affect climate.

Early this year, a slight warming of the upper atmosphere was reported as the cloud absorbed sunlight. Because some solar energy is used to warm the upper air, this development could lead to cooler air at the earth's surface, scientists report.

Challenger's crew may face problems

CAPE CANAVERAL, Florida, April 1 (AP) — The four astronauts on the maiden flight of the space shuttle *Challenger* will probably have to tackle several "nuisance" problems because the vessel is new, says its flight director.

"It's going to be a matter of learning the idiosyncracies and the personal little quirks of this vehicle," says Harold Draughon, relieved that America's second space shuttle is finally in launch countdown after being delayed for two and a half months by engine and payload troubles.

The count started Wednesday afternoon, directed toward launch at 1:30 P.M. (1830GMT) Monday. Draughon said he believes *Challenger* will experience minor problems, such as the heater, fuel cell and other troubles that plagued its sister ship, *Columbia*, on its first two flights in 1981. After those flights, *Columbia* flew three almost trouble-free missions.

The four astronauts flew to Cape Canaveral Friday afternoon to make final flight preparations.

Commanding the mission will be Paul J. Weitz, with Air Force Col. Karol J. Bobko serving as pilot and Story Musgrave and Donald H. Peterson as mission specialists.

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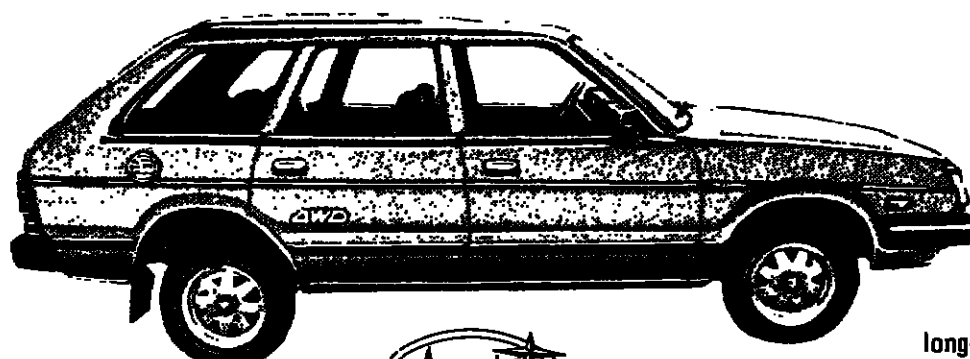
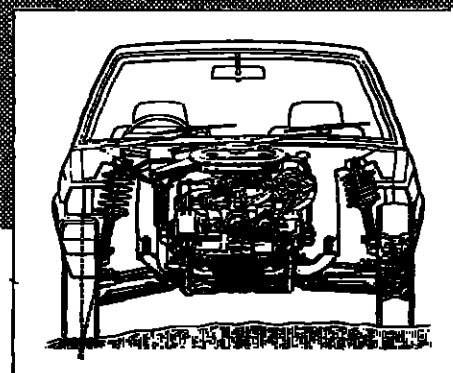
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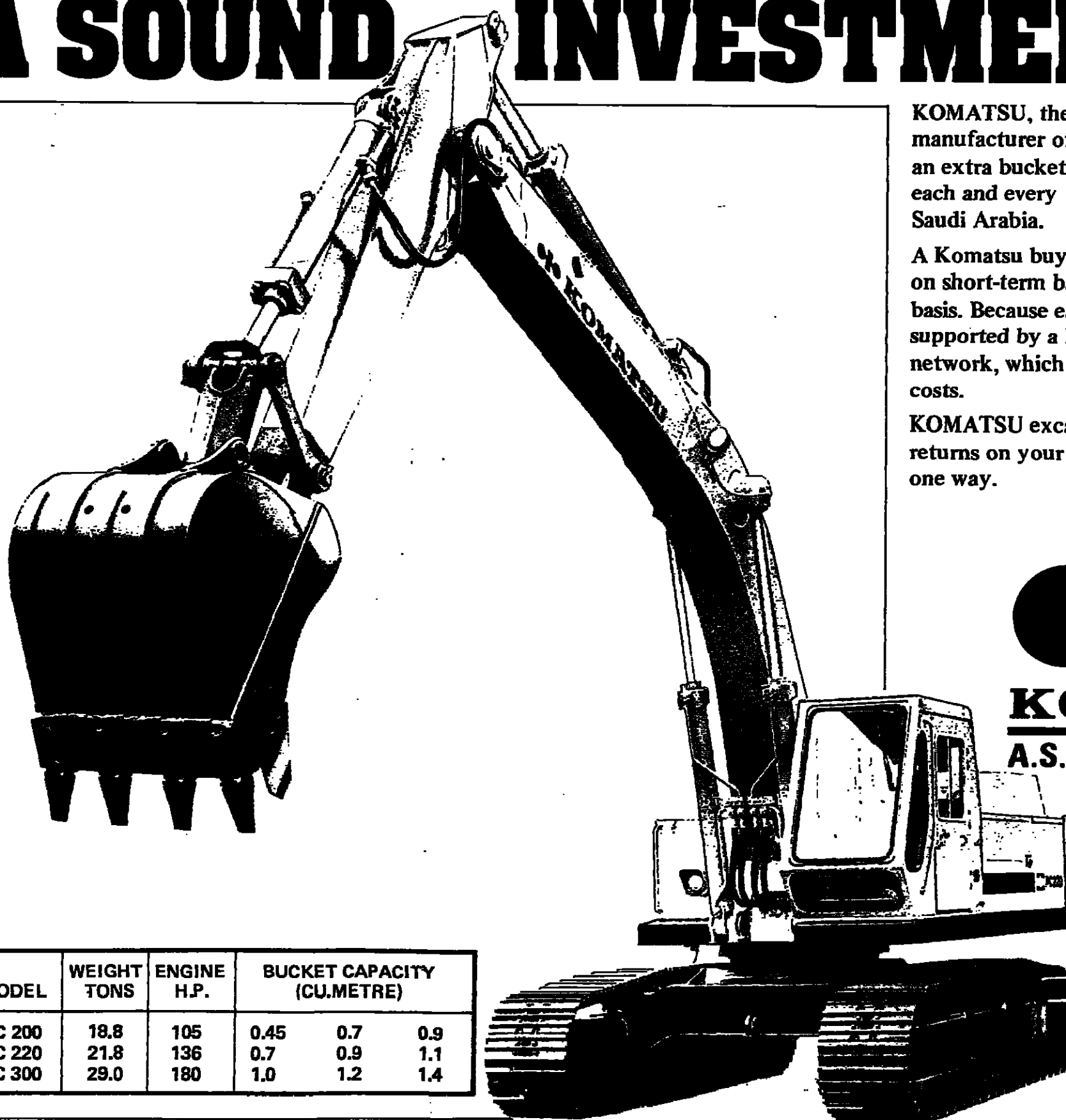


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PC 300	29.0	180	1.0	1.2	1.4

With India snatching three quick wickets

Windies slump as shadows fall

GEORGETOWN, Guyana, April 1 (AP) — India snatched three wickets in the final 20 minutes of play as the West Indies slumped from a commanding 251 for two wickets to an unsatisfactory 259 for five at the end of the first day of the third cricket Test match Thursday in Guyana.

A decision by Indian captain Kapil Dev to claim the second new ball proved crucial, Kapil himself ended a third-wicket partnership of 49 between Vivian Richards and Larry Gomes when Anshuman Gaekwad held a stunning slip catch to dismiss Gomes for 36.

Night watchman Michael Holding was then run out without scoring and was quickly followed by Gus Logie, caught by wicketkeeper Syed Kirmani off an outswinger from Balwinder Singh Sandhu, also without scoring.

It meant that captain Clive Lloyd had to come in to play out the day and, after surviving a confident appeal for leg-before-wicket first ball from Sandhu, he and his deputy Richards saw out the day. They will carry West Indian hopes for a sizeable total when play resumes Saturday, with Friday being the

Score-board
WEST INDIES (1st innings):
G. Greenidge c Kirmani b Maninder 70
D. Haynes c Yasirpal b Venkat 46
V. Richards batting 97
L. Gomes c Gaekwad b Kapil Dev 36
M. Holding run out 0
A. Logie c Kirmani b Sandhu 0
C. Lloyd batting 2
Extras 8
Total (for 5 wks) 259
FALL OF WICKETS: 1-89, 2-157, 3-251, 4-253, 5-256.
BOWLING: Kapil Dev 18-6-35-1; Sandhu 13-5-21-1; Shastri 12-2-47-0; Maninder 23-3-78-1; Venkat 24-7-70-1.

Riyadh tid-bits

U.S. basketball coach coming

Special

RIYADH, April 1 — Andy Young, assistant basketball coach at the University of Alabama-Birmingham (UAB) since 1978, will be visiting Saudi Arabia as a guest of the Royal Saudi Air Force. Young will be attending the RSF Basketball Championships at Dhahran, and will be holding clinics and demonstrations at RSF bases during his visit.

Young helped head coach Gene Bartow guide UAB to an NCAA Midwest Regional semifinal berth in 1981, and to a final spot in the same tournament in 1982. UAB has captured two Sun Belt Conference championships and one Sun Belt Tournament title during his tenure at the University.

A participant in two overseas tours while at UAB, Young has worked at four different basketball camps including the Bartow Basketball Camp and the Kentucky Basketball Camp. His visit to the Kingdom is sponsored by the Royal Saudi Air Force in cooperation with the United States Sports Academy.

Meanwhile, RSF sportsmen from around the Kingdom will be going after the team championships in basketball and volleyball at Dhahran in the final phases of the RSF Games for 1983. Basketball competition will be held April 2-6, and volleyball April 8-12.

Teams expected to be competing in the two sports include the King Abdul Aziz Air Base (Dhahran), Riyadh Air Base, King Fahd Air Base (Taif), King Khalid Air Base (Khamis

rest day.

Richards was the dominant West Indian batsman, hitting two huge sixes and seven fours to remain 97 not out at the close — just three away from 14th Test century and his first since April, 1981.

He came in after openers Gordon Greenidge and Desmond Haynes had carefully put together a first-wicket partnership of 89, making use of an easy-paced pitch on which Lloyd decided to bat first after winning the toss for the third time in the series.

Greenidge and Haynes scored only 18 off 14 overs in the first hour but eventually accelerated. Haynes was the first to go, caught at shortleg off the bowling of the 38-year-old veteran off-spinner Venkatraghavan, India's best bowler. Haynes had survived a chance off the same bowler in the first hour when the ball failed to carry to Kapil in the gully.

Greenidge, who survived a stumping chance to wicketkeeper Kirmani when he moved down to drive Venkatraghavan at 47, went on to score 70. But then left-arm spinner Maninder Singh, who bore the brunt of

Greenidge's assault, had him caught. By this time, Richards was 36 and well set and he provided the impetus in his third-wicket stand with the solid left-hander Gomes, a century-maker in the last Test.

They were both batting without problems when Kapil Dev took the new ball, nine overs after it had become due. Almost immediately Kapil Dev got a ball to leave Gomes late outside his off stump and his edged stroke was gobbled up by the diving Gaekwad, to make the total 251 for three.

It became 253 for four when Holding, sent in to protect the recognized batsman, was run out in a mixup over a single with Richards, and was 256 for five when Logie edged a ball from Sandhu to be spectacularly caught by Kirmani, diving to his right.

A crowd estimated at 10,000 watched the play in bright sunshine a change from the rainy weather which had ruined Guyana's match against the Indians last week. Before the start, Lloyd and a former West Indies captain, Rohan Kanhai, both officially opened stands at the Bourda Grounds named in their honor. Both are Guyanese.

University Boat Race

Hall determined to end Oxford's run

LONDON, April 1 (Agencies) — Graeme Hall has just given up another month of his life in an attempt to break Oxford's stranglehold on the University Boat Race.

Saturday, over the traditional Putney to Mortlake course at the unsocial hour of 1700 GMT, Oxford go for their eighth successive

victory over Cambridge which, if they achieve it, will extend what is already their longest winning run since the First World War.

Hall, the chief Cambridge coach, is desperately trying to prevent this, even to the extent of having taken the crew on for the whole of the last month's training instead of for the usual fortnight. He has a good track record as a worker of miracles. In 1980 he coached the British crew, which was given no chance at all, into second place in the final of the Olympic Eights in Moscow, to round off the greatest British success story of the entire Games.

Hall does not have quite such talented raw material this time, but he learned in 1980 that determination and motivation can sometimes beat experience and that is what he will be looking for Saturday. "We have to be realistic and face the fact that we are not the favorites," he says. "Oxford have great experience but I still believe we are stronger than they are and we will aim to match everything they do."

"It is no good trying to fly off the start to surprise them. You may be ahead at Hammersmith but you still have another three miles to go." He added: "So the idea will be

to stay with them, match everything they do and see who has the most character."

Hall's opposite number, Dan Topolski, is "finishing" Oxford for the 11th successive year, during which he has lost only twice. He has tremendous resources at his disposal — John Bland at Stroke, the controversial Boris Rankov looking for his sixth successive win and the Canadian Evans twins.

But he has also had fitness worries in the crew in the final week when Bowman Bill Lang went down with a virus infection. So Topolski is simply making no predictions. He knows the Boat race can go wrong on the day, but something will have to go badly wrong for Cambridge to have a realistic chance of halting their slide.

The boat race, between eight-oared crews from England's two best-known universities, remains a feature event on the British sporting calendar. First held in 1829, it has been rowed over a four miles 374 yards (seven kms) stretch of the Thames since 1863.

There was a bitter wrangle over the eligibility of Oxford oarsman Boris Rankov, 28, to row in the race. Rankov, who has been in Oxford's last five winning crews, is both a college lecturer and a research student and Cambridge claimed as a professional post-graduate he was ineligible.

High-riding Lakers rake the sparkle off Nuggets

NEW YORK, April 1 (AP) — The Denver Nuggets really needed to win, which made it even sweeter for the Los Angeles Lakers.

Jamaal Wilkes' three-point play with 3 1/2 minutes left helped the Lakers pull away from Denver for a 122-116 National Basketball Association victory Thursday night, thereby cutting the Nuggets' lead over Kansas City to one game in the race for the sixth and final playoff spot in the Western Conference.

In the only other NBA game of the night, the Phoenix Suns downed the Portland Trail Blazers 106-89.

The Nuggets scored the last 16 points of the third quarter to take a 96-88 lead. Alex English, who finished with 30 points, keyed the streak with eight points. Denver still led 106-98 with 8:04 left before James Worthy made two steals, the second one leading to a 110-110 tie. Wilkes, who had 22 points, then hit a foul shot to put Los Angeles ahead and added his three-point play to increase the margin.

Kareem Abdul-Jabbar had 26 points for the Lakers and Earvin Johnson had 22 points, 16 rebounds and 12 assists. Denver's Dan Issel finished with 28 points.

Suns 106, Blazers 89: Maurice Lucas and Larry Nance broke loose in the third quarter to rally Phoenix. Lucas scored 14 of his 21 points in that quarter and Nance got 12 of his 19 as the Suns overcame Portland's five-point halftime lead by scoring the last 15 points in the period to take a 76-65 lead. Dennis Johnson finished with 18 points and Kyle Macy had 17 for Phoenix. Calvin Natt scored 22 points for the Trail Blazers.

"Striking" a deal
Meanwhile, the NBA and its Players' Union agreed on a tentative contract Thursday, just two days before a threatened strike that would have interrupted the final two weeks of the season.

The four-year contract includes provisions for maximum and minimum team salary limits, a guaranteed 53 percent share of gross revenues for players and sharing of revenue for financially troubled teams. Both Major League Baseball and the National Football League also have forms of sharing of revenue.

A strike by the NBA Player's Association, which had been threatened for Saturday, would have been the third by an American professional sports league in as many years. In 1981, baseball players struck for 50 days. Last year, NFL players struck for 57 days.

"It's a landmark labor agreement in professional sports," said NBA Commissioner Larry O'Brien, who announced the agree-

ment on behalf of the NBA Board of Governors, which approved the pact at a meeting Thursday. Larry Fleisher, Players' Union general counsel, said he expected player representatives to approve the contract when he presents it to them on Monday.

The contract will take effect at the start of the 1983-84 season. The maximum salary cap takes effect the following season. The Players' Union, with 276 members, had set its strike deadline last month after playing nearly the entire season under terms of its old contract, which expired last June.

The NBA regular season ends April 17, with playoffs to begin two days later.

Perreault crosses

30-goal mark anew

NEW YORK, April 1 (AP) — Gil Perreault scored twice in the second period to reach the 30-goal mark for the eighth time in his 13-year National Hockey League career and added a third-period assist, leading the Buffalo Sabres to an 8-5 victory over the New Jersey Devils Thursday night.

In another match, Reijo Ruotsalainen scored two goals and an assist as the New York Rangers beat the Philadelphia Flyers 4-2 in a game between next week's first-round opponents in the NHL Stanley Cup playoffs.

In Calgary, Jim Jackson's second goal of the match with 5:36 remaining pulled Calgary into a 4-4 tie with the Vancouver Canucks and enabled the Flames to clinch second place in the Smythe Division.

Meanwhile, in the World Pool 'B' Ice Hockey Championships in Tokyo, Poland trounced Romania 9-0 (period scores 4-0, 1-0, 4-0) in their last match to clinch second place, with five victories, a defeat and a draw. The Poles thus won a place in next year's Winter Olympic tournament in Sarajevo, Yugoslavia. At the same time they also secured a berth in Pool 'A' for the next World Championship to be played in 1985.

The United States and Yugoslavia, who have both been playing in this group, have automatic qualification for Sarajevo, as the defending Olympic champions and host country respectively.

Poland's Andrzej Hacua made an important contribution to his side's win by scoring a hat-trick. Defeat for Romania meant that they were relegated to Group 'C' for the next World Championships.

In a match played at the Shinagawa Ice Arena, also in Tokyo, Norway were boosted by a hat-trick from Erik Kristiansen as they routed Switzerland 8-1.

Watson, Lye in a two-way tie

GREENSBORO, North Carolina, April 1 (AP) — Zimbabwe's Denis Watson, bundled in layers of clothes against the biting cold and drizzling rain, finished off a three-under-par 69 with a birdie from a bunker Thursday and tied Mark Lye for the first round lead in the \$400,000 Greater Greensboro Open Golf Tournament.

"It was a matter of survival out there," said Craig Stadler, who will defend his Masters title in Augusta, Georgia, next week. Stadler, with a 71, was one of only a handful of players able to break par 72 on the Forest Oaks Country Club Course which is listed at 6,984 yards (6,386 meters) but, due to the wet conditions, played much longer.

The group at 70, a single stroke off the pace, included Roger Maltbie, Mike McCullough, Canadians Jim Nelford and Bob Eastwood, a runner-up last week. Tied at 71 with Stadler were Dave Eichelberger, South African Nick Price, Fuzzy Zoeller, Nick Faldo of England, Thomas Gray and Chip Beck.

Danny Edwards, a two-time Greensboro winner and the defending champion, matched par 72. Hal Sutton, who won the Tournament Players' Championship Monday, shot 75 in the difficult conditions. South African Gary Player opened his American season with a 72.

Lye had matched two birdies against as many bogeys through the first 14 holes, then made his move with a string of three consecu-

tive birdies beginning on the 15th, where he dropped a 10-footer. He scored from about the same distance on the next hole and made it from 15 feet on the 17th.

Watson had it four-under-par at one point, then got it in a bunker and eventually 3-putted for a double bogey on the 16th.

Meanwhile, Beth Daniel holed a 40-yard (36.6-meter) wedge shot for an eagle three on the 11th hole Thursday to help her earn a tie for the first-round lead in the \$400,000 Nabisco-Dinah Shore Golf Tournament, in Rancho Mirage.

Deadlocked with Daniel at 69 for the opening 18 holes was Sandra Spuzich, who played one of the steadier rounds of her 22-year Ladies Professional Golf Association career. Daniel, 26, only smiled when asked how she felt when the wedge shot went into the hole. Daniel had two birdies and a bogey to go with the eagle in the 3-under-par round.

Spuzich, 20 years older than Daniel, hit 15 greens and was only inches off the other three in recording three birdies and no bogeys. One stroke off the pace at 70 entering Friday's second round of this 72-hole event were Susie McAllister and Amy Alcott.

Tour veterans Donna Caponi and Australia's Jan Stephenson were deadlocked at 71, one-under-par and two strokes behind the leaders. Six others were at even-par 72 over the 36-36-72 Mission Hills Course measuring 6,265 yards (5,729 meters).

Davenport, Moignan scrape into semifinals

LONDON, April 1 (AFP) — Stuart Davenport, the 20-year-old New Zealand No. 2, and Britain's Martine Le Moignan qualified for the semifinals of the 25,000-pound Audi World Squash Cup following a nail-biting finish to their quarterfinal with Gamal Awad and Sue Cogswell in Southampton.

Although Davenport lost 3-0 to Awad in 65 minutes, he and the 20-year-old British no. 2 took the tie on points difference having drawn 3-3 on games.

The New Zealand-Australian combination of Ross Norman and Vicki Cardwell were successful in another quarterfinal, beating Britain's Angela Smith and Hiddy Jahan of Pakistan by six games to one.

It was Moignan's 9-1, 9-4, 9-5 thrashing of Cogswell which stood the New Zealand-British combine in good stead after Awad had blasted Davenport 9-2, 9-6, 9-6. The points difference between the two teams were 41-37. The lone point earned in the 6-1 rout in the other quarterfinal was by Smith, who bowed out fighting to Cardwell 3-9, 9-3, 6-9, 2-9, after Norman had breezed past Jahan 9-1, 9-6, 9-5.

Charles Mottet grabs second stage honors


ST. GAUDENS, France, April 1 (AFP) — Charles Mottet of France won the second stage of the Midi-Pyrenees Cycling road race. Compatriot Gilbert Duclos-Lassalle retained the overall lead.

Tour de France titleholder Bernard Hinault showed signs of a return to form when he broke away from the pack at the first tough spot of the 170 kms stage, the climb to the Purg Pass. He built up a one minute lead, but was caught by several other riders toward the end.

Irish racing cyclist Sean Kelly was injured in a fall and will be out of competition for at least four weeks.


Kelly, winner of this year's Paris to Nice Road Race and last week's International Criterium, fractured his right thumb. The Irishman was in a collision about five kilometers from the end of the second part of the second stage.


Kelly, top favorite to win the race until his thumb, will be flown from Auch to his home in Belgium.



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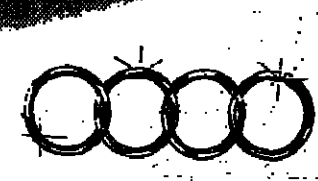





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On rain-shortened day

Purcell displays fine form to make semis

MONTE CARLO, April 1 (Agencies) — Heavy rains interrupted the Monte Carlo Tennis Open Friday, after holding off for two days while Bjorn Borg made his last tournament appearances.

Turnbull-Casals fall by wayside

YOKOHAMA, Japan, April 1 (AP) — Americans Billy Jean King and Sharon Walsh advanced to the semifinals Friday night after a come-from-behind 3-6, 6-3, 7-5 first round victory over second-seeded pair of Wendy Turnbull of Australia and American Rosie Casals in the \$150,000 ninth Bridgestone Women's Doubles Tennis Competition.

The King-Walsh pair will meet Leslie Allen of the U.S. and Mima Jausovec of Yugoslavia, who defeated the Brazilian team of Patricia Medrado and Claudia Monteiro 6-1, 6-3.

Top-seeded Americans Kathy Jordan and Anne Smith beat compatriots Barbara Jordan and Lea Antonopolis 6-4, 6-2 to make the grade. They now meet the third-seeded American combine of Ann Kiyomura and Paula Smith, who defeated Anne Hobbs of Britain and Sue Leo of Australia 7-6, 6-2.

In the first set the Casals-Turnbull team broke a 2-2 tie to go ahead 4-2 after breaking King's service in the sixth game. They increased their lead to 5-3 after Turnbull held her service, she smashed a shot through mid-court to win the opening set with Casals serving.

King and Walsh stormed back to take the second set, breaking Casals' service in the sixth game and Turnbull's service in the eighth. In the final set Turnbull lost her service in the third game to put the King-Walsh combination ahead 2-1. Turnbull and Casals tied the score 4-4, after breaking Walsh's service in the eighth game. King and Walsh broke Turnbull's service in the 11th game to go ahead 6-5, then Walsh held her last service to take the set and the match.

Mehta's Rally hopes dashed

NAIROBI, April 1 (AFP) — Vic Preston Junior of Kenya was the surprise leader of the Kenya Safari Rally here Friday as competitors returned to Nairobi at the end of the 1,621 kms (1,000 miles) first leg of the five-day event.

With favorites Michele Mouton, Hannu Mikkola, and Shekhar Mehta hit by mechanical trouble, Preston and co-driver John Neal built up an eleven-minute lead over second-placed Timo Salonen of Finland in a Datsun 240 RS.

Preston, whose father Vic won the Rally 28 years ago, had worked his way up through chugging dust from 10th starting position, while many competitors found it tough going on the hard and dry roads from Nairobi to Mombasa and back.

His official Audi teammates Mikkola and Mouton had set the early pace, but early leader Mikkola fell behind in the rough and hot Taita Hills with water pump failure. A mechanic had to be flown in by helicopter to repair the engine, causing the "Flying Finn" and his Swedish partner Arne Hertz to lose an hour and three quarters.

Motion took over the lead and at the Mombasa halt the Frenchwoman was three minutes ahead of Salonen. She lost her advantage soon after the restart when a rear wheel worked loose. It was soon repaired, but the incident had damaged the differential in her four-wheel drive Quattro.

The return run to Nairobi saw five times winner Mehta, a Ugandan-born Kenyan citizen, withdraw after the engine in his Datsun packed up. Kenyan teammate Mike Kirkland pulled out with similar engine problems. It was axle failure which afflicted the Opels driven by Rauno Aaltonen and Ari Vatanen of Finland.

Aaltonen, making his 20th attempt to win the World Championship event, had to strap up his axle with cable to reach his service crew, while Vatanen had six punctures as well as the axle problem to delay him.

At Nairobi Preston and Salonen were followed across the line by Mouton, who had kept up the pressure, despite her hatred of desert driving, to creep up from eighth position and keep within 24 minutes of Preston. Rob Collinge of Kenya was next in a Range Rover, 42 minutes behind the leader.

He was chased by Aaltonen and Vatanen, with Britain's Vic Elford in seventh place in his Subaru. Elford's place was hotly contested by Datsun 240 RS driver Jyrki Salo of Kenya, then a 22-minute gap separated Shab from ninth-placed Yasuhiro Iwase of Japan, at the wheel of a Datsun PA 11.

Mikkola could only register 11th place, below Frank Tundo of Kenya in a Subaru and more than two hours behind his Audi teammate Preston. The remaining cars were due to start the 1,455 kms second stage late Friday. With heavy rainfall forecast, there could be further upheavals in the standings before the drivers reach Nairobi once again late Saturday.

6-0, 7-6, (8-6). The other ties are between French No. 1 Yannick Noah and Spain's Manuel Orantes, between Borg's rising young Swedish compatriot Mats Wilander and French No. 2 Henri Leconte and between Guillermo Vilas of Argentina and Italy's Corrado Barazzutti.

Glickstein, who upset No. 1 seed Ivan Lendl on Tuesday, couldn't seem to do anything right for most of the match, while the 23-year-old Purcell played almost faultlessly, taking the first 10 games.

Purcell, ranked 30th in the world, displayed a full range of technical skills and court-craft, serving well, and outplaying and outsmarting the 25-year-old Glickstein until the fifth game of the second set.

At that point, Glickstein, ranked 42nd, suddenly found the range on his serve and regained the deuce touch shots that had driven Lendl crazy three days before. He forced the match into a tiebreaker, which Purcell finally won on a fine drop shot that the slower Glickstein couldn't quite manage to reach.

Purcell, the last American left in the tournament said after the match, "When he (Glickstein) began to get into the game in the second set, maybe I got a little tight thinking about the semis." In the semifinals, Purcell will face the winner of the match between France's Yannick Noah and Spain's Manuel Orantes.

Meanwhile, Borg, who ended his career after going down to Henri Leconte Thursday admitted he would miss the atmosphere of the tournaments and the roar of the fans, but said he was looking forward to not having to get up early every morning to train for four or five hours a day.

Borg said he had three favorite memories from his career — his first Wimbledon victory in 1976, his only Davis Cup win for Sweden in 1975 and his last Wimbledon title in 1980.

"There was one bad time I will never forget. That is my defeat in the final at Forest Hills on clay in 1976 against Jimmy Connors," Borg added.

He will play a final exhibition match in Tokyo next week before finalizing plans for his future off the court. There was a possibility of commenting on the French Open and Wimbledon for an American television network, he said.

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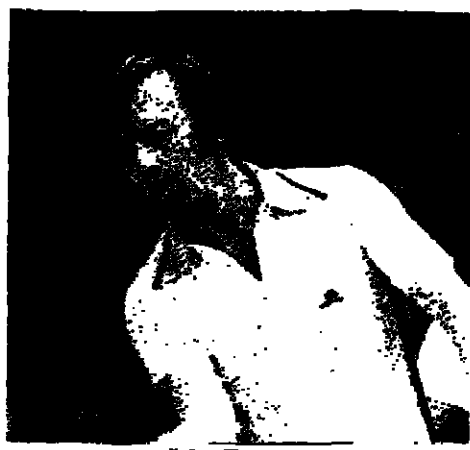
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John Easter



Peter Verov



Phil Kenyon

U.K. stars for Kingdom squash festival

By Jean Grant
Alkhobar Bureau

DHAHRAN, April 1 — A week-long squash festival will be hosted April 28 to May 6 at the university of Petroleum and Minerals (UPM). Climaxing the seven major events will be an International Pro-Challenge Tournament and the Kingdom-wide Squash Championship.

In the Pro-Challenge Tournament the weekend of May 4-6 four of England's top five players, Phil Kenyon, John Easter, Peter Verov and John Lelievre will compete in a straight knockout competition.

All eyes will be on Phil Kenyon, who in the past few weeks has shot up from world rank 15 to world No. 9. In the 1982 British Open the 26-year-old Lancashireman defeated the world No. 5, Gamal Awad of Egypt in 2 1/4 hours of punishing play with Awad being taken to hospital after collapsing as he left the court.

Kenyon's skill and dedicated training have won him a dozen major titles including British Closed Champion (1981), World

Individual runner-up amateur (1979), and Open champion in tournaments as far afield as Switzerland, New Zealand, and Jamaica.

Kenyon will face John Easter and Peter Verov, who showed off their stuff last year at UPM, and John Lelievre, who is on his first visit to the Kingdom. SNASS in association with DHL are putting up the prize money of SR1,800, one of the biggest prizes in world squash.

That same weekend 16 of the best squash players in Saudi Arabia will compete for the coveted title of Saudi Arabia's best squash player. This is an invitational tournament which includes players from every region of the Kingdom.

The strongest contingent comes from Jeddah. It includes Jeddah's No. 1 and ex-Karachi junior champ, Khan Zada, Hussein Al Nor, winner of last year's Kingdom-wide competition, and Ian Nicholson, ex-London University squash captain. They will pit their strength against top players as Dr. Mike Kingston, Riyadh's leading player, and Kim Seles, who has just won the Eastern Province Championship.

British Airways, who are flying in the four international players, are also giving the first and second prizes in the Kingdom-wide competition. The Meridien Hotel is accommodating all visiting players during the tournament.

Since the UPM Squash Festival aims to combine every level of squash ability, there will also be six Eastern Province events. These include a children's championship and a "Professional Squash Challenge," in which local players can challenge one of the four pros to a one-game match. The pros will also give coaching to the local players.

The glass-backed courts at UPM accommodate 120 viewers and tickets for the events are available at the UPM Recreation Center door.

After the UPM Squash Festival, Easter, Verov, Kenyon, and Lelievre will fly to Jeddah for a tournament there May 7-8 to mark the opening of new glass-backed courts there. On their return to England they will stop in Paris to play in the Paris Open.

English Soccer League

Spotlight shifts from top to cellar battles

LONDON, April 1 (AP) — With Liverpool running away with the English First Division title, most of the national interest during the upcoming soccer program focuses on the fight for UEFA Cup places and the struggle to avoid relegation to Division Two.

Most teams in Britain will play at least two matches in the four days between Saturday and Tuesday and several key promotion and relegation issues could be decided by the end of the tight, action-packed program.

Four UEFA Cup places have been allocated to English teams for next season and for many money-lovers the European competition is vital to ease their financial worries.

Liverpool, 13 points clear at the top, is almost certain to represent England again in the Champions Cup. But with an average of nine league games still remaining, any of a dozen other teams can still finish high enough to gain a berth in the UEFA Cup.

Watford, the surprise team of the season, plays two "Derby" matches away to West Ham and at home to close-neighbors Luton and will be hoping to consolidate its position in second place.

Three teams are relegated at the end of

Friday's results			
ENGLISH DIVISION TWO			
0	Blackburn	0	
DIVISION THREE			
1	Portsmouth	1	
1	Exeter	1	
1	Gillingham	1	
DIVISION FOUR			
0	Stockport	0	
1	Peterborough	0	
0	Swindon	0	

each season and Luton, currently one place above the bottom three, is becoming increasingly desperate. After two successive defeats despite manager David Pleat's bold attacking philosophy.

Luton's other match is the vital relegation battle against Norwich, one point behind, in an encounter neither team can afford to lose. Pleat has recalled experienced defender Richard Money for the two games in an effort to plug the gap in one of the division's most penetrable defenses.

Manchester United, beaten by Liverpool in last week's Milk Cup final, is still practically certain to qualify for Europe. Ron Atkinson's team will be hoping most of all for a Cupwinners' Cup place by winning the English F.A. Cup — United plays Arsenal in the semifinals next month.

But United, currently in third place in the league, is certain to go for maximum points against Coventry on Saturday and at Sunderland two days later to make sure it has the

consolation of a UEFA Cup place should it fail to reach Wembley for a second time this season.

Sunderland, just free from the relegation zone, has undoubtedly the toughest program with an away match against Liverpool on Saturday as well as hosting United in the north-east on Monday.

Aston Villa, powerful at home but increasingly easy opponents away from Villa Park, is in fourth spot, with a UEFA Cup place its only objective left this season. Villa plays at Ipswich on Saturday and then entertains Birmingham in what is certain to be a passionate local Derby on Monday.

For Birmingham, tucked in the bottom three and desperate for points, the Monday game means a return to Villa Park for Ron Saunders, former manager of last year's European champions who moved a few miles across the city to take over "The Blues."

Another intriguing Derby match over the holiday period is the Tottenham-Arsenal clash in North London on Monday. Both clubs are handily placed for a UEFA Cup place although Arsenal, like Manchester United, can still qualify for Europe via the Cupwinners' Cup.

FIFA's decision irks U.S.

NEW YORK, April 1 (R) — The United States Soccer Federation (USSF) has asked the International Football Federation (FIFA) to reconsider the American bid to stage the 1986 World Cup finals.

In a telex to FIFA headquarters in Zurich, the USSF said Thursday's decision, made by a four-man special committee, to pursue only Mexico's application was "unacceptable" and requested clarification of the action.

Mexico, Canada and the U.S. entered the running when original hosts Colombia pulled out and although FIFA will not make a final decision until its executive committee meets in Stockholm on May 20 it appears the North Americans have failed.

The special committee comprising chairman Hermann Neuburger of West Germany, compatriot Horst Schmidt, Argentine Carlos Alberto Lacoste and general secretary Joseph Blatter — will visit Mexico between April 11 and 18.

FIFA said Thursday that Canada had offered only nine stadiums instead of the required 12 and added that the vast distances between venues in North America would add to organizational problems.

In the telex to FIFA Werner Fricker, chairman of the USSF World Cup Organizing Committee, said: "Your decision not to visit the United States as prescribed by your own rules and regulations is unacceptable. The

United States has expended considerable time and effort in preparing for your visit including a United States congressional hearing, a visit with the president, a visit to each of our facilities and an audio visual presentation."

"We would like to know why your decision was made in such an abrupt manner. We hereby respectfully request that you reverse your decision and visit the United States."

Howard J. Samuels, the president of the North American Soccer League (NASL), backed up that view when he said: "I am truly outraged at FIFA's announcement that they would only consider Mexico's application without even making inspection tours of the U.S. and Canada. To deny both countries the opportunity to present their cases in person, because of supposed distance problems between stadium sites, is unrealistic. FIFA should give us the chance to show them our facilities, and if there are problems, to then solve them."

Samuels went on: "I think their action is an insult not only to the soccer federations of both countries, but also to President Reagan and Prime Minister Pierre Trudeau of Canada, both of whom have expressed their undivided enthusiasm for hosting the World Cup."

The Canadians have not given up hope, however.

A 'kingly' boxing show in Las Vegas

NEW YORK, April 1 (Agencies) — Larry Holmes and Michael Dokes will defend their shares of the world heavyweight championship the night of May 20 in Las Vegas, Nevada, promoter Don King formally announced Thursday at a chaotic news conference.

King tried to convince listeners that the doubleheader plus a World Boxing Association junior heavyweight title bout and a 12-round World Boxing Council heavyweight elimination fight will be two separate programs. But there will be only one ticket.

The two-show concept apparently is King's way of appeasing the WBC, which had balked about having Holmes defend the WBC title on the same show as Michael Dokes' World Boxing Association title defense against Mike Weaver. What will happen will be that WBA and WBC bouts will be separated by an intermission.

The news conference was marked by words between Holmes and Greg Page and by the absence of Mike Weaver, one of the prime pats, who reportedly missed a plane, and the very late arrival of Dokes, who suffered an upset stomach after a Wednesday night dinner.

Holmes will make his 15th defense of the WBC championship against Tim Witherspoon in a 12-round fight, who also was present, while Dokes will make his first defense of the WBA title against Mike Weaver, from whom he won the title in 63 seconds last Dec. 10.

The 12-round WBC elimination bout will match Page against Renaldo Snipes, who seemed more interested in talking about a rematch with Holmes, than about Page.

The scheduled 15-round WBA junior heavyweight title bout (195-pound, 88 kg limit) will match champion Ossie Ocasio and No. 1 contender Randy Stephens. Neither was invited to the news conference.

Holmes, who has a 42-0 record, said he expected this to be his last year of fighting and acknowledged the growing risks of remaining unbeaten. "I'm not to naive about the position that some day somebody's going to get me," said Holmes, who will be 34 next November. "You're born to die. You're born to be beaten."

Meanwhile, Saturday's WBA light welterweight fight between the holder, Aaron Pryor of the U.S., and his South Korean challenger, Sang-Hyun Kim, could be postponed, the organizers said in Atlantic City Thursday.

Pryor has been experiencing severe stomach pains since Wednesday and doctors said there was little sign of any improvement. The fight is also threatened by legal proceedings brought by Pryor's former manager, Buddy Larosa, who claims Pryor cannot fight without his agreement. Larosa will apply for an injunction before an Ohio court Friday to have the fight stopped.

Pryor, 27, is unbeaten in 32 fights with 30 wins inside the distance. He has defended the title six times, stopping former lightweight champion Alexis Arguello of Nicaragua in 14 rounds at Miami last November in his last title defense.

Sang-Hyun Kim, 28, who has been training here for the last week, has won 42, lost three and boxed two draws. The South Korean lost his WBC version of the title to Saul Mamby of the U.S. three years ago.

In Bangkok, Thailand, more than 100 boxers from 16 countries will take to the canvas at the ninth King's Cup Amateur Boxing Championships Saturday.

Competing are the United States, the Soviet Union, Norway, Denmark, Kenya, Australia, Lebanon, Pakistan, South Korea, Japan, Indonesia, the Philippines, Uganda, Nepal, Singapore and hosts Thailand.

Last year the Soviet Union won four gold medals and powered their contingent to title team championship.

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TIME TO ACT

Former U.S. Congressman Paul McCloskey was defeated in his bid for re-election precisely because he had spoken out against the Jewish lobby and the undue influence of Israel on American affairs and the course of its foreign policy. He was fought and defamed at every turn until he lost the election.

Not only that. His career is being shattered as he is unable to get a decent job with any of the law firms because these firms are being harassed and blackmailed by Jewish organizations if they dare offer him a job.

Such malpractices have been known before as the Jews consolidate their grip on the world's greatest economic and military power but when they stretch to control the kind of Americans who should represent the people in their legislative and executive organs, the situation becomes disturbing for the U.S. as well as for other countries which have to deal with it.

This is not something new to the American political scene and the Arabs have known about it all along. And this is why Israel has maintained a position of sweeping military superiority in the Middle East. It is the reason behind the decimation of the Palestinian people and the occupation of territories in some Arab states.

But the situation is not going to change overnight or next year or in the next ten years unless the Arabs wake up and do something urgently. The Arabs can help change the situation if they are willing to change themselves and their attitudes.

McCloskey has hinted at what the Arabs can do, although he concentrated on what American businessmen dealing with the Middle East should do to highlight the hazards of sustaining the strength of the Jewish lobby in the U.S.

Our own view is that American businesses will not be able to reduce the influence of the Jewish lobby however much they try assuming that they are willing to do so. But Arab businesses can do something in this direction. They can simply reduce their imports of American goods as much as possible to drive home their opposition to the Jewish lobby and convince the government that they mean business.

Once this is carried out and American exports to the Middle East fall rapidly and substantially, American companies may wake up to the specter of losing such a good market because of the Jewish lobby.

Corporate America is dead scared of the Jewish lobby and Israeli influence on their legislations. But why should corporate Arabia be so concerned?

Saudi Arabian press review

Newspapers Friday called on the Arab world to support the Palestinians in "resisting Israeli oppression and foiling Zionist plans to liquidate them."

Okaz, commenting on Israeli intimidation and oppression, notably the recent poisoning of schoolgirls in the West Bank, said the Palestinian people were "determined to liberate their land and confront all forms of persecution, terrorism and racism. This Zionist persecution reached a peak with the war of annihilation waged on the Palestine Arab people by using poisonous gas to coincide with the anniversary of the Day of the Land, which reflects the continuation of the struggle

launched in 1967," it added. It said the Arab world should "back the struggle of the Palestinian people with all its resources to ensure their continued survival and foil Zionist designs."

Al-Madinah said the steadfastness of the unarmed Palestinian people constituted the "peak of victory against Jewish barbarism." It urged Arab and Islamic people to support and go to the rescue of the Palestinian people "because keeping silent and taking no action to match the criminal Jewish practices will lead to the Zionist enemy's persistence in its crimes which will definitely spread to other parts of the Arab and Islamic world." (SPA)



Security Council generates more talk but does little

By O.C. Doelling

UNITED NATIONS — At a time the U.N. Security Council is under pressure to increase its effectiveness, the 15-nation body is generating more talk and little or no action. U.S. Ambassador Jeane J. Kirkpatrick is concerned about a growing tendency here to view the council chamber merely as a "Turkish bath" — a place to let off steam.

The council, empowered by the U.N. Charter to preserve peace, held three straight debates on international disputes in the last two months without adopting a single resolution. A fourth debate adjourned in a deadlock Thursday night. After two weeks of on-and-off deliberations and tough back-room bargaining, delegates could not even agree on a mildly worded presidential statement that would have urged Chad and Libya to settle peacefully their territorial dispute over the Libyan-occupied Aouzou strip. A presidential statement is the weakest form of council action and is adopted by general consent without a vote. Chad decided to press for a vote next week on a resolution calling for a peaceful solution.

Last Tuesday, the council ended five days of debate without taking action on Nicaragua's complaint of a U.S.-backed invasion by insurgents based in Honduras. Equally inconclusive were debates held in February on an Arab complaint against Israeli settlements in occupied Arab territories and on a Libyan complaint against U.S. naval maneuvering off the coast of North Africa.

"When you come up against a brick wall, all you can do is try to minimize the damage," said a council delegate whose country professes nonalignment. The diplomat, speaking privately, referred to the veto power wielded by the five permanent council members — the United States, Britain, France, China and the Soviet Union — who rarely can agree on effective action.

With the council's performance now under intense scrutiny, the delegate said, members seem less inclined to adopt meaningless or unenforceable resolutions or to put the council's credibility further on the line by pushing to a vote tougher resolutions certain to be killed by a veto, even if it succeeds in winning the nine votes required for passage.

The non-permanent council members holding two-year seats are Guyana, Jordan, Malta, the Netherlands, Nicaragua, Pakistan, Poland, Togo, Zaire and Zimbabwe. The irresolute debates have coincided with council consultations on ways of overhauling the faulty U.N. peacekeeping machinery. The impetus came from a highly critical report by Secretary-General Javier Perez de Cuellar, who complained that the council "all too often finds itself unable to take decisive action to resolve international conflicts and its resolutions are increasingly defied or ignored by those that feel themselves strong enough to do so."

"Debate without effective action erodes the credibility of the organization," Cuellar admonished the council in his report.

The Nicaraguan debate was a case in point. In the

name of rallying world public opinion behind its complaint of U.S. intervention, Nicaragua's Sandinista government marshaled enough Third World and Soviet bloc supporters to turn the council into a miniature version of the General Assembly. The 157-nation assembly is a sounding board without enforcement powers.

Among the 57 delegations that participated in the debate were those as remote from Central America as Vietnam, Mongolia, Libya, Iran and the Indian Ocean state of Mauritius — all non-members of the council who were permitted to speak under the loosely interpreted rules of procedure.

Iran's ambassador quoted from the Qur'an. Mauritius' envoy quoted from Thucydides' 5th century B.C. history of the Peloponnesian War. Libyan Ambassador Ali Treiki used the occasion to stray far afield and to deliver a scathing attack on U.S. and Israeli actions in the Middle East. "The United States has no friends," the Libyan said moving closer to the issue before the council. "The word 'yankee' in Latin America is synonymous with evil and Satan."

With some heat, Mrs. Kirkpatrick told delegates the debate demonstrated "the kind of cynical debasement of the process of conflict resolution which underlies and largely explains the various specific failures that are outlined in the secretary-general's report."

Nicaragua, she said, was trying "to transform the United Nations into an arena where power, as

measured by numbers and volume, defines what is good, what is true, what is fair, what is peace." The majority of the speakers, including delegates from such friendly nations as Mexico and Pakistan, she said, had given the green light to Communist expansion while denying non-Communist countries, like El Salvador, the right to self-defense.

Soviet Ambassador Richard S. Ovinnikov retorted that Mrs. Kirkpatrick was raising fears of a "red under every bed." He suggested that U.S. officials who shared that fear should check under their own beds to satisfy themselves that there were no reds there and then "pay a visit to the doctor."

Mrs. Kirkpatrick, in an article later published in *The New York Times*, characterized the debate as an attempted "mugging" rather than an honest effort to bring peace to Central America. The acrimonious debate prompted the council president, British Ambassador Sir John Thomson, to take the unusual step of chiding delegates. Some speakers, he said without naming them, had "taken advantage of the laxness which has crept into our procedures."

"Some have spoken on matters well outside the agenda item under discussion," Thomson noted. "Some have also used unhelpfully strong language which went beyond the bounds of civility. All this is bad for the standing of the Security Council, whereas the secretary-general in his report has stressed the urgency of enhancing its standing."

On Friday, under a monthly rotational system, the presidency of the council passes to a severe critic — Jeane J. Kirkpatrick. (AP)

Botha seeks backing of opponents on power sharing plan

By Robert Weller

JOHANNESBURG — Prime Minister P.W. Botha is enlisting support outside his once invincible National Party for proposals calling for the first move away from concentration of power among whites since the party took power in 1948.

At issue are plans to share some political power with the country's 2.7 million colored (mixed race) and 850,000 Asian people. Botha's opponents are calling the reforms "the biggest change in the century." The reforms would set up a president's council to resolve disputes between colored and Asian chambers of parliament and the separate white assembly. Whites, who outnumber coloreds and Asians, would have a majority of the seats in the council.

Anti-apartheid critics say the plan leaves whites in effective control of the government, making the colored and Asian chambers little more than an advisory body. Botha, barring further defections to the right, has the votes to push through the proposals.

als. But he has been under fire by critics who say he is supporting them despite widespread opposition from the Dutch-descended Afrikaners who are the life blood of his party. This means seeking the support outside the Nationalist circles, something the Nats have done only once before.

Botha surprised parliament Wednesday night with the announcement that a referendum on the proposals would be held among the country's nearly five million whites. A referendum will enable Botha to say he has given the country a chance to vote on the reforms. But Frederik Van Zyl Slabbert, leader of the main white anti-apartheid party, called the announcement "a panic action" caused by dissent in the cabinet.

The referendum gives white anti-apartheid opposition parties strong leverage because their support will be essential if the reforms are to be approved. Slabbert's Progressive Federal Party has withheld support for the race reforms because no provision is made for representation for the black majority. The FPF, with 26 seats in the 165-seat parliament, also has said the race reform legislation

effectively destroys the opposition parties by creating an all-powerful president.

Botha has maintained that the proposals could move forward because the National Party's provincial caucuses had approved them. But recent soundings from three districts largely made up of Afrikaners, where special elections are set for May 10, show the Nats in danger of losing. The legislation is scheduled to be introduced within days.

The FPF and the smaller new Republic Party, which has eight seats, now can demand changes in the reform legislation, at least as it affects the opposition parties, before offering to back the referendum. Opinion polls published in the last three years have shown the reforms probably would be approved by the electorate, but not without the support of the two anti-apartheid parties.

The two main white-supremacist parties, the Conservative Party and the Herstigte National Party, both comprised of former Nats, totally reject any sharing of power with non-whites and therefore nothing can be gained by offering them minor changes in the legislation.

As expected, Botha's announcement produced immediate calls for a referendum among coloreds and Asians as well. But surprisingly, among those seeking a poll was the leader of the colored Labor Party, Allan Hendricks.

Hendricks' party, the biggest political party among coloreds, had been sharply attacked for endorsing the reforms. Several Labor Party meetings were disrupted by militant coloreds who said the reforms were an attempt to win colored and Asian support against blacks. "The Labor Party decided to participate in the proposed constitutional dispensation on the basis that the prime minister would not hold a referendum among whites because he had a mandate for reform from the 1981 general election. Having decided on a referendum for whites, he is now morally obliged to do the same for the colored people," Hendricks said.

Leaders of the Asian community, mostly of Indian descent, also called for referendums among their people. The most likely dates for the referendum are late September or early October. (AP)

Lonely Seychelles faces outside coup plots

By Tom Fawthrop

SEYCHELLES — This cluster of just over 100 islands in the Indian Ocean (population: 63,000) is not only a famed winter ground of West Europeans but also a lonely outpost of nonaligned socialism presently under constant threat of outside coup plots and larger enemies.

Beauty of the islands' blue lagoons, coral reefs and superb beaches help underscore the tiny nation's vulnerability to an external invasion. It recently weathered one invasion. It was launched from South Africa in November 1981. An expedition force of 45 mercenaries, led by "Mad Mike" Hoare, attempted to seize the Seychelles and "return it to the West."

To the delight of other small Third World republics, the South African-backed coup attempt was successfully repulsed by the tiny and inexperienced Seychellois defense force with some support from Tanzanian troops. The foiled attempt resulted in the capture of seven mercenaries, one of them a woman. The rest were able to flee back to South Africa after hijacking an Air-India plane. Four of those captured have since been sentenced to death. But Seychelles Socialist President Rene Rene, an opponent of capital punishment, has been trying to pull off an audacious deal with the South African authorities. He wants to exchange the four condemned South African nationals for Nelson Mandela, South Africa's most famous political prisoner. The Pretoria regime has so far turned down President Rene's prisoner exchange offer.

However, the Seychelles president holds another trump card. During the attempted coup, his forces also bagged a top-ranking South African intelligence officer, Martin Döllschek, now doing a 20-year prison stretch for his part in the coup. As a result of the foiled coup, tiny Seychelles has emerged as the biggest source of international embarrassment for South Africa, acknowledged as

the greatest military power in the continent.

A former French and British colony, the Seychelles first attracted world political attention in 1977 when Rene, leader of the islands' Socialist Party, coalesced with the other opposition parties and successfully ousted pro-West playboy President James Mancham in a general election. Rene has since imposed a one-party Socialist rule on the Seychelles. The hardworking President Rene is widely respected in his tiny nation. End of the scandal-ridden Mancham regime is little regretted by the islanders. Even the West has accepted the political change in the islands as shown by its uninterrupted flow of economic assistance.

In five years of Socialist rule, the government has almost trebled the minimum wage, introduced unemployment benefits and old age pensions, provided free education and health care, and created the kind of welfare state that would make other Third World nations green with envy. From cabbies to insurance salespersons, this Depthnews correspondent heard mostly praise for President Rene's gradualist socialism. One of the reasons is the strength of the Seychelles rupee which was revalued upward by 15 percent in 1981. There is also no black market in the country.

In the area of political dissent, the tolerance level has a very low threshold. The reasons are the hostility exhibited by the Pretoria regime toward the islands and their highly strategic position — the Seychelles sit astride the crucial oil-shipping lanes from the Gulf that go around the Cape of Good Hope to the United States. Not far from the blue waters of the Seychelles lies the island fortress of Diego Garcia. It is the first full-scale military base in the Indian Ocean set up by the U.S. Washington considers the base as vital to its defense of U.S. interests in the Gulf.

Emergence of Diego Garcia as an American military base in their region is being opposed by the Seychelles, Mauritius, Madagascar, Tanzania and all the neighboring nonaligned states in the Indian

Ocean. They want the U.S. to quit the area. Instead of being deterred, Washington continues to expand its Diego Garcia facility and this has compelled the Seychelles government to make more strident its opposition to the American presence. It is a belief of people in Seychelles that the American spy organization, Central Intelligence Agency (CIA), was a participant in the foiled South African coup attempt.

Despite its one-party political setup, the Seychelles is full of pluralistic influences and mixtures. It was a former French and British colony and the colonizers left a clutch of cultural legacies. This is a land where the people speak an indigenized French called Creole. Policemen patrol the streets unarmed and the legal system is unmistakably British. But the calypso music and multiracial harmony is something uniquely Seychellois.

For all the anti-imperialist rhetoric heard on the domestic front, most of the Seychelles economy remains in private hands. The economic emphasis is on self-sufficiency, but the country is still hostage to the vagaries of tourism, its No. 1 foreign exchange earner. The current global economic recession has hit the Seychelles particularly hard.

Survival of President Rene's government these past five years stems from the delicate balancing act it is doing in the diplomatic arena which has attracted aid from the most unlikely combination of donor countries.

Where else in the world does a government receive financial support from both the U.S. and the Soviet Union, France, China, Libya, Algeria and Arab states like Saudi Arabia and Oman. If the Seychelles has formidable enemies like South Africa, it has a fascinating array of friends. Despite the conflict over Diego Garcia island, the U.S. aids the Seychelles with a school-lunch program. Its most staunch supporter is France which provides the hardware of the islands' tiny defense forces. — (Depthnews)



Today is Saturday, April 2, the 92nd day of 1983. There are 273 days left in the year.

1536 — Malmö, Sweden, surrenders to Denmark's King Christian III.

1667 — France's King Louis XIV signs defensive league of the Rhine with Münster, Neuburg, Brunswick, Hesse-Cassel, Bavaria and Sweden.

1774 — British forces under Warren B. Hastings seize Rohilkhand in northwest India from Rohilla tribe.

1801 — British fleet under Horatio Nelson is sent to Denmark because of Danish action on the Elbe River and is victorious off Copenhagen.

1903 — Britain and France refuse to support construction of Baghdad railway.

1917 — U.S. President Woodrow Wilson summons special session of Congress to declare war on Germany.

1947 — U.N. Security Council appoints United States as trustee for Pacific Islands formerly under Japanese mandate.

1975 — Japanese students who hijacked airliner release 13 passengers in Seoul, Korea, and accept Japan's vice minister of transportation as hostage for a flight to North Korea.

1980 — Iran's Islamic Party scores major victory in first round of parliamentary elections.

1982 — Argentina seizes Falkland Islands in South Atlantic, overpowering the 84 British Marines defending the island colony.

Thought for today:

Never trust a man who speaks well of everybody — John Churton Collins, English literary critic (1848-1908).

هكذا من الاعمال

Arab heritage - 9

Cairo retains the aura of Ibn Batuta's time

By Peter Bazil
Special to Arab News

"Cairo," said the famous Arab traveler Ibn Batuta in the 14th century (A.D.), "is the metropolis of the country, master of wide-spread regions and rich areas; it has attained the ultimate possible limits in the size of its population, and is proud of its beauty and brilliance. It is the meeting place for travelers."

Of course, as we know now, the accounts of many of these medieval travelers were greatly exaggerated, often misinformed; oceans, rivers and cities were misplaced; events they had witnessed were misrepresented; because of the problem of language, what others had said to them was misunderstood. Others, aspiring to be geographers, had drawn extraordinarily inaccurate maps of their travels and, when their imagination had failed them, filled in the gaps with elephants, lions, unicorns, dolphins: representational, sometimes mythical, figures. Ibn Batuta, however, spent 24 years in traveling to the four corners of the extensive Arab Empire. The sights he saw were familiar to him, the language he conversed in was Arabic. Thus, and because also, he was a judge by background, he was not given to overstatement.

Certainly, when he continues in his reference to the overpopulation of Cairo with "... the number of inhabitants so great that they seem to move in waves, making the city look like a choppy sea..." his words are entirely appropriate to the scene today.

Recently arriving from Saudi Arabia at this "meeting place for travelers," as he calls it, I had cause to agree with his assessment. Such was the crowd at the airport, that an hour had elapsed before I obtained a taxi for the long journey into the town. We tried the Hilton: "We are booked up a month ahead, Sir." We tried Shepherd's. We tried Semiramis. They were all full. It is Cairo's perennial problem, like the shortage of taxis, and we continued to travel around Cairo for an hour or two before, finally, I arrived at the Khan Khalili Hotel, right in the heart of the old city.

"Marhaba," says the diminutive, cheerful Sudanese lift-boy. We start to ascend, but suddenly, between the fifth and sixth floors, the small, crowded lift stops, the lights go out. After minutes of agony, and helplessness, it starts again.

My room on the sixth floor has a balcony, which overlooks the Khan Khalili bus station. It is nearly midnight now, and Cairo has awakened from its afternoon somnolence. Down below there are scenes of frantic activity: waves of crowds, ebbing and flowing just as Ibn Batuta had described. There are rows of buses trying to depart: packed inside and, like the trains in India and Sudan, with non-fare paying passengers on the roof and on the sides. There are bright-lit stalls of spiced food and sandwiches; barrows of assorted clothes all in a heap, for their garrulous salesmen throw into the air, and thrust into the hands of expectant customers; little urchins who chase each other in their unceasing games; quacks with their patent medicines; storytellers with their encompassing groups of awed listeners; a musician with his *oud*, not seeming to care if anyone listens or not; donkey and camel carts with extraordinary loads; an old *shubba* selling water from his battered, iron cylindrical tank... These are the scenes of today. Not much has changed.

Is it possible then, with so many people living, apparently so chaotically, in the city for such a long time, as Ibn Batuta had asserted it was, "beautiful and brilliant"?

Indeed it is, and many hundreds of thousands of Arab visitors throughout the year can testify to it.

Much of Cairo's attraction is in its mosques, its *madaris* (religious schools), mausoleums, tombs, shrines and cemeteries. In Ibn Batuta's day, (incidentally he was a Moroccan), the Moroccan Sultan is said to have reprimanded the local government authorities whenever he visited a street which did not have a mosque. Had the Moroccan Sultan visited Cairo then, or was he to visit it now, however, he would have no such cause for complaint, for in every street there is one mosque, or two, or three; sometimes, even, they are adjacent to each other. Minarets embroidered with arabesques, intricately carved with the most varying fantasy, pierce the sky everywhere. Some are far off, some are nearby and point to the sky above your head; wherever you look, as far as the eye can see, you discover them, and you always feel, as with the eyes of a well-painted portrait, that you are being watched by the one which you have just passed.

There are in fact more mosques in Cairo than in any other city. They range from the first, that named after one of the Prophet's first generals, Amr ibn Al 'Aas, founded in 640 (A.D.), to the mosque of Ibn Tulun. Al Hakim, Al Akmar, Sultan Mayyad, Al Azhar, the crowning glory of the Fatimid dynasty, and many, many more. Yet, who could count them all; who, indeed, could see them all; and who could judge them in their order of architectural excellence?

Not only are there the mosques, but the magnificent mausoleums, scattered throughout the city, which commemorate the famous, and infamous, rulers of Cairo, and respected Cairenes, and the cemeteries to the west of the city, and to the south of the Citadel, where there are the tombs of the Mamluk Sultans.

Salah Ad Din (Saladin) actually built the Citadel, although he personally did not live in it. His successors, however, used it as their official residence and today, like them, from the top of the 'Muqattam' one can look down on the whole expanse of Cairo and, in doing so, understand a little how Ibn Batuta could assert Cairo's claim to be "... master of wide-spread regions and rich areas...". For the white walls of the mosques, their cupolas and pencil-thin minarets, in reality melded into the congested, narrow labyrinth of bustling streets, colorful markets, solid warehouses, stores, shopping centers, all of which are bound by strong stone walls, and such gateways as those of Bab Al Futuh, Bab An Nasr



OLD AND NEW: This sketch gives an idea of Cairo as it existed in 1887 with mausoleums in the northern quarter of the city. Right: The modern Cairo is something vastly different with its new buildings. Walkways have been erected in the Liberation Square to cope with the crowds.

and Bab Zuweila, seem from afar to be interlaced with the beautiful green of innumerable palm trees in the various gardens. Contrasting with the white and the green, one sees across the clear blue air, like little mountains in the distance, the sand-colored pyramids, but mostly, flowing across this panorama, like an enormous fat snake, one's attention is attracted to the silvery Nile: the artery on which, through trade, the wealth of Cairo has always depended.

It obviously did in Ibn Batuta's day: One sees upon the Nile thirty-six thousand ships with lateen sails belonging to the Sultan and his subjects. These ships go back and forth, upriver toward Upper Egypt and downriver toward Alexandria and Damietta, with merchandise and staples which are sold at advantageous prices.

Almost contemporaneously, Ibn Khaldun also describes the scene:

A paradise extends on each bank of the Nile; the flow of its waters replaces, for the inhabitants, the water from the sky, while the fruit and the wealth of the earth offer them their salutations. I went through the crowded streets of this capital and through its markets, which burst with all the delights of this life...

Indeed it is in these markets, the retail aspect of Cairo's river-borne wealth, that the 20th century visitor can best, and most interestingly, admire the commercial activity of the city.

In Maqrizi's day (in the 15th century), there had been thirty-seven indoor markets, thirty-two *qaysariyas*, nineteen *fundihs*, eleven *khanas* and three *dar al wakalas*, all crammed together in the triangular area bound by the Bab Zuweila, Sultan Ghuri's tomb and Al Azhar Mosque. Maqrizi continued: "There is nothing in markets of Cairo."

As with the innumerable mosques, it is virtually impossible to know how many of the 14th and 15th century markets survive, or even to know how many there are today. As in those far-off days, however, each type of commodity tends to be found in a particular area: inside the Bab Al Futuh, for example, butchers, grain and vegetable dealers are to be seen; nearby, stores selling saddles and accoutrements for camels; alongside the Al Akmar Mosque, is the Candlemaker's Market; to the northeast, toward the An Nasr Gate, there are cloth merchants, weavers, fashers, dyers, darners, tailors, laundresses and pressers; near here was the Khan Khalili Quarter, formerly a slave-market; toward the south, the poultry and bird market; for merchants are seen in the vicinity of the Al Azhar Mosque; the woodworkers' market is also here; cooked food vendors and confectioners are at Bab Zuweila; jewelers, goldsmiths, silversmiths, coppermiths, brass-workers in other areas; book dealers, comb merchants, candy makers... The list is endless, and Maqrizi could not be faulted when he says that there is nothing that cannot be found in this comprehensive emporium.

In summary, let me just say that Cairo is virtually everything that Ibn Batuta had claimed it to be those six hundred or so years ago.



BAB ZUWEILA: In 969 when Cairo was founded, the city extended from the southern minaret of Al Hakim Mosque to Bab Zuweila of which a sketch is given here. During the Mamluk period Bab Zuweila served as the sovereign's entrance to Cairo.

Maoris against Diana's visit

By David Garvey

WELLINGTON (LOS) — Prince Charles and Princess Diana may walk into a political storm on their visit to New Zealand this month.

They are due to begin two-week tour of this usually placid nation on April 17 amidst threats by a radical Maori protest movement called POW (People Opposed to Waitangi) to disrupt their schedule. POW has warned of "acts that go beyond the law" in order to secure repudiation of the Treaty of Waitangi, signed in 1840 by the British Crown and Maori tribes to bring New Zealand into the British Empire.

Some Maoris (not POW members) claim that treaty provisions guaranteeing Maori land rights have never been fulfilled. They want the treaty ratified by the New Zealand government to give those provisions a clearly defined legal status.

The government shows no sign of bowing

to this group's wishes. POW has taken up the cause but its radical approach has frightened moderate Maori leaders sympathetic to the calls for parliamentary ratification. They regard POW's leading personality, Rebecca Evans, as too reckless, and believe her flamboyant language and hardline tactics are more likely to retard than help their cause.

Gathered about Evans are other personalities more noted for their devotion to protest than deep thought on the racial issues confronting New Zealand.

Police doubt POW's ability to assemble more than a hundred hard-core demonstrators during the royal tour. "We don't expect violence anywhere near the scale of that which took place during the South African rugby tour," said Deputy Assistant Commissioner Brian Davies, the officer responsible for police security during the royal visit. He singled out Waitangi, in New Zealand's far north

word watch

By Howard Dana Shaw

ABUSING A GOOD WORD: "The use of to advise in business letters meaning to inform is happily falling into disuse," says Bergen Evans in his Dictionary of Contemporary American Usage. I haven't noticed it. In my observation, it's as prevalent as ever.

To advise means to counsel, guide, recommend, or caution. How it ever took on the meaning of simply to notify, tell, or apprise is a mystery. But it now appears in most dictionaries with that secondary meaning. (Remember almost any word that is used, or misused, long enough will show up in the dictionaries.)

Teachers of better letter writing for years back have made fun of writing *advise* when you mean inform or notify. They have characterized it as hackneyed and one of the tired old letter "bromides". Reader's Digest Great Encyclopedia Dictionary says it "sounds pretentious."

Advise is a good word. Why don't we keep it in its proper place?

HOW DO YOU SAY ZERO? Has anybody around here said *naught* lately? When I was young, we were taught "You ought to say *naught*." The word seems to have made a complete disappearance.

These days, most people say "oh," and R.S. writes us from Pebble Beach, California, to say one of her pet peeves is "Use of

the letter O for the digit zero."

How did it all start? Did the telephone company plant the idea in the long-gone days when the operator repeated the number after you?

You'll admit it's particularly confusing on the dial phone or the "touch-tone instrument to have a letter O and also a zero."

If zero sounds awkward to say, why don't people say *aught*? As a matter of fact, our dictionaries show four words all of which are defined as meaning zero: *aught*, *ought*, *nought*, *naught*.

Anyone want to start a revolution? **WHEN WORDS GET OLD:** Do you use words like "golly" and "gee whiz" as handy exclamations? If you do, you give away your age, according to a pair of women who have written a book entitled *How to Lie about Your Age*.

Or don't you worry about such things? Publishers of the new book proclaim the deadly importance of fooling people about your age, and promote the idea that misleading them can enhance your earning power and do wonders for your welfare.

The book cites numerous examples of subjects to avoid, and words (*hi-fi*, *ice box* and *civics* for example) that reveal the horrible truth about your age.

One wonders if we shouldn't be more like the Chinese and be proud of our age.

(If you have suggestions or questions, write to Mr. Shaw, care of this newspaper.)

Profiles of America's presidential hopefuls

By Magda Abu Fadil
Special to Arab News

WASHINGTON — Arabs can take little heart in the prospect that a new American president will be an improvement over Ronald Reagan for a second term in 1984.

The most prominent candidates of late are the already announced Democratic hopefuls who hope to unseat the Republican incumbent on major domestic policy issues. Among them are 5 of the 51 senators who last year affirmed their signatures to a bipartisan resolution in Congress opposing the sale of sophisticated weapons to Jordan.

Perhaps of more importance is the role being played behind the scenes by advisors, analysts and powerful sides of potential presidents. Established national congressional figures running for the highest office in the land can draw from a powerful pool of prospective courtiers who have been known to support Israel on issues relating to the Middle East.

It is worth noting, for example, that legislators, in the House of Representatives or the Senate, depend almost entirely on advice from legal aides and research assistants, many of whom are Jewish or are known to side with Israel. This, in turn, affects the congressmen's voting patterns and foreign policy priorities.

In states heavily populated by Jews, such as New York, California, Illinois and Florida, not being in the same wavelength of those with pronounced pro-Israeli sentiments can mean all the difference between re-election and political oblivion for a candidate.

On the national level, as in a presidential race, that translates into millions of dollars and countless valuable votes. Candidates whose experience began on Capitol Hill are usually capable of building upon their track records and meeting the rigors of a race that has become one of the longest-running tests of endurance.

The following are profiles of four of the front-runners:

Gary Hart:

The youthful, and still untested, Sen. Gary Hart of Colorado is attempting to revive the John Kennedy charisma, which may win him many of the younger voters. His more liberal views have endeared him to conservationists, arms control advocates, political activists and young professionals. Added to this is an image enhanced by actual presidential campaign experience acquired as former Sen. George McGovern's campaign manager in the 1972 presidential election. He is further seen as an intellectual with a sharp wit.

Hart's image nationwide still lacks extensive visibility, compared with some of his more well-known Senate candidate colleagues. But the roster of foreign policy aides advising the presidential aspirant is drawn from his own staff and an impressive assortment of academics, consultants and former top government people.

Among the active advisors who help shape Hart's views on foreign policy are Jeffrey Record, a defense analyst at the Institute for Foreign Policy Analysis, Antonia Chayes, a former undersecretary of the Air Force; Kingman Brewster, former U.S. Ambassador to Britain; Samuel Berger, a former State Department official, and Barry Carter, a law professor at Georgetown University in Washington.

Hart's own interest in concepts and strategy comes from service on the Senate Armed Services Committee. Advocacy for expanding the money supply, stimulation of small businesses and reduction of the budget deficit by focusing on defense cuts is augmented by his membership in the Senate Budget Committee.

Political pundits feel he may be too inexperienced on the national level to actually become president just yet. His relatively young age (45) offers him the opportunity to try running in several future presidential campaigns. That would explain their assessment that he may be more successful as a running mate, for the second spot, and use the vice presidential position as a stepping stone for the top job.

John Glenn:

Shooting up from the sky can be somewhat anti-climatic for former astronaut and national hero John Glenn. The senator from Ohio who serves on the powerful Foreign Relations Committee has been likened to the late President Eisenhower in manner and bearing — although belonging to different political parties.

According to a Capitol Hill analyst, Glenn radiates simple decency and seems less capable of guilt than most professional politicians. This very lack of pretense has also been viewed by some critics as a liability and a "dullness factor" — one which could prove fatal to a candidate in a society taken up by video glitter and instant gratification.

Glenn receives advice from Carl Ford and Leonard Weiss, both of whom serve on his staff. Newly formed advisory committees on defense and foreign policy also supply the former astronaut with counsel on non-domestic matters.

The rather conservative advisors to Glenn include William Bader, a former staff director on the Senate Foreign Relations Committee and now head of the Stanford Research Institute's Washington office. (The California-based think tank boasts of an impressive list of right wing scholars and analysts.) The other Glenn confidante is June Woolsey, former undersecretary of the Navy.

A rather telling indicator of his foreign policy priorities is his voting record on Middle East issues. He supported the sale of F-15s to Saudi Arabia in 1979, because, he argued, the Saudi Arabians might otherwise have obtained the Mirage 200 from France.

Glenn further denounced the Israeli bombing of Iraq's nuclear reactor near Baghdad. His most controversial action was urging recognition of the PLO by the U.S. government.

The predictable negative reaction from the Jewish community has caused concern that his candidacy should not be supported. And yet, Glenn has also voted against the AWACS sale to Saudi Arabia and has opposed all cuts in aid to Israel. He continues to insist on his support for Israel, which he describes as the only democracy in the Middle East.

Walter Mondale:

Former Vice President Walter Mondale is a very known quantity in regional and national politics. He rose to prominence as a senator from Minnesota, under the tutelage of yet another former Vice President and fellow Minnesotan, Hubert Humphrey.

Mondale's experience probably makes him the most accomplished politician of the group. His oratory is both captivating in formal speeches and exciting and humorous in less structured settings.

A decisive factor in presidential campaigns is organization and how it is best utilized to enhance a candidate's standing. In that respect, Mondale can draw upon a framework that has worked well for him in his vice presidential days during the Carter administration.

On matters of international relations and import, Walter Mondale relies on advice from several former colleagues who also served in the Carter administration. Most prominent among them is the reserved career diplomat Warren Christopher who left the State Department as a deputy secretary of state.

An equally respected foreign policy advisor in Mondale's inner circle is former ambassador Sol Linowitz who acted as president Carter's special envoy to the Middle East and was actively involved in the Camp David peace process.

Alan Cranston:

The senior senator from California is perhaps one of the most vocal supporters of Israel on Capitol Hill. His strong views on the need for Israel's "security" and a constant supply of arms and economic aid to the Jewish state are a matter of public record.

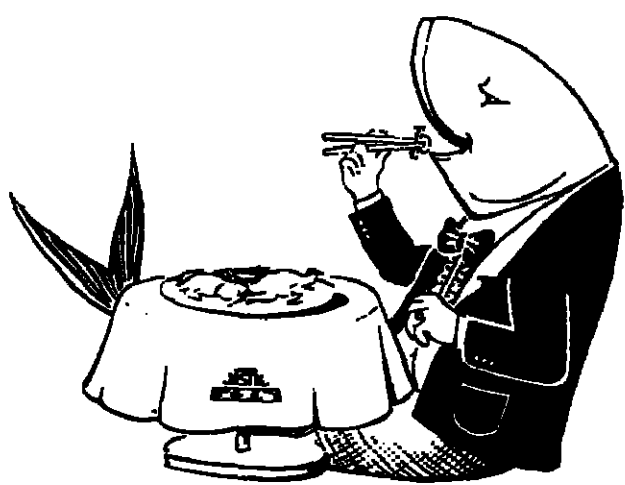
Ironically, when he first declared his candidacy, Cranston proclaimed himself a "peace candidate", denouncing the escalating arms race, and tying in all other issues to the one objective.

Cranston was the first presidential hopeful to declare his candidacy. Although many analysts saw his bid as a long shot for the presidency, they conceded his vote-getting ability on some popular liberal views would make him the "spoiler" in the race — taking valuable votes from other Democratic Party candidates.

The California senator relies on an aide from the Foreign Relations Committee (on which he serves), Gerald Warburg. Making the arms race a primary concern of his political platform, Cranston seeks counsel from more liberal advisors such as Marshall Shulman, who served at the State Department during the previous administration and Paul Warnke, President Carter's arms control negotiator.



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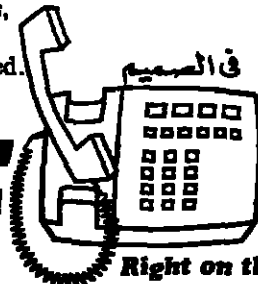
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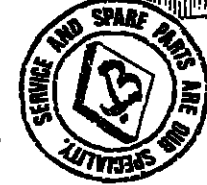
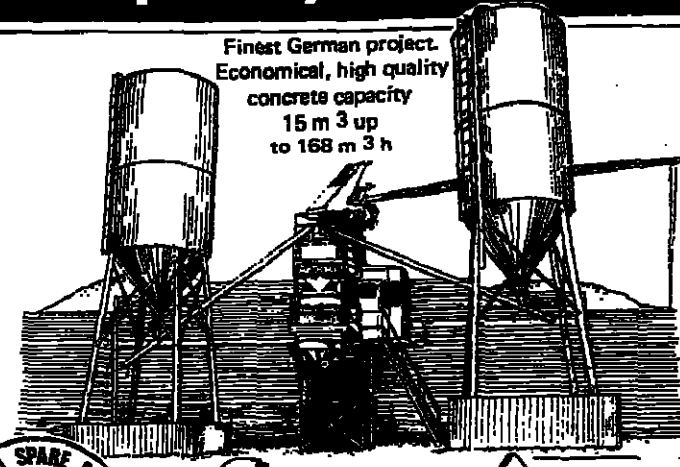
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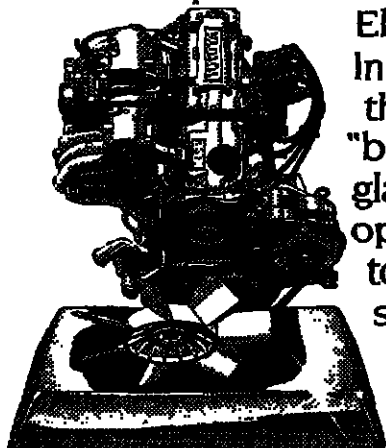
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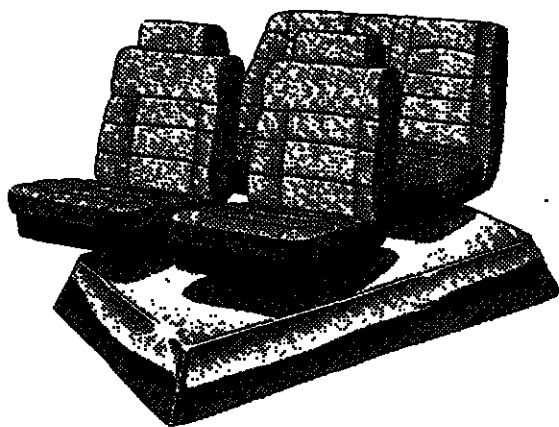
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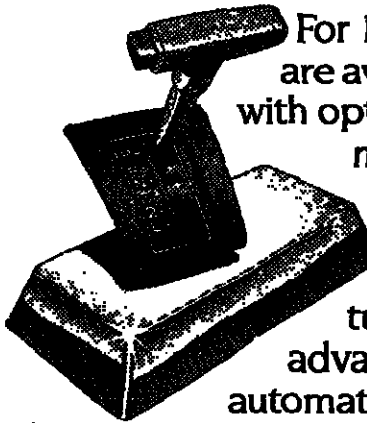


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To protect home industry

U.S. cuts duty-free imports

WASHINGTON, April 1 (AP) — Customs duties that have been waived on goods from poor countries will have to be collected beginning March 31 on a variety of imported goods, the administration of U.S. President Ronald Reagan announced Thursday.

Imposition of most of the duties was triggered by limits on duty-free entry built into U.S. customs law.

The system of waivers, called generalized special preferences (GSP), is designed to help poor countries sell more of their goods in the United States. But when limits set by U.S. law on such imports are reached, duties must be reimposed in some cases in order to protect

U.S. industry. In that category fall goods that were worth \$1.553 billion in 1982 trade.

On the other \$168 million worth, the administration was authorized to make the decision itself. It also had some additional discretion.

Altogether, it decided to "graduate" \$900 million worth of goods from duty-free status. Under the law, it could have allowed duty-free entry for another \$295 million worth of goods from Taiwan, \$295 million from Hong Kong, \$91 million from Malaysia and \$53 million from Mexico, but decided not to do so.

But it also decided to let in duty-free this year \$303 million worth of imports that had to pay duty last year.

Last year, duties were waived on \$8.4 bil-

lion worth of goods, 3 percent of U.S. imports. There were about 3,000 products from 140 countries and territories. If the new rules had been in effect, the duty-free trade would have amounted to some \$7 billion.

Tom St. Maxens, executive director of the GSP program, told reporters he could not estimate what the figures would be this year, but that duty-free imports have risen steadily each year despite larger and larger exclusions from the duty-free list.

The new exclusions from the duty-free list required by law will have the biggest effect on Taiwan — \$362 million worth, Mexico — \$249 million, Singapore — \$154 million, South Korea — \$141 million and Chile — \$126 million.

At a March 11 press conference, Watt announced that Kuwait had been declared a "non-reciprocal nation" under the federal Mineral Leasing Act because "it is discriminating against U.S. citizens and corporations" seeking to hold petroleum interests in that Arabian Gulf country. Watt said Kuwait forced out American companies operating there in the 1970s while allowing Japanese, British, Dutch and Spanish interests to remain.

Sadd said, "We have examined each of the countries cited and in no instance found evidence of discrimination on the part of Kuwait. Either the concessions mentioned were not economically feasible, were in the Neutral Zone and therefore not under Kuwait's jurisdiction, or were offshore."

Sadd added that there is no precedent for the denial since Kuwait's lease requests in the United States were all onshore.

Kuwait is continuing to try and clear up the misunderstanding about the affair. "In this case, I would say Interior is badly misinformed," Sadd emphasized.

Citing what he termed a "pattern of interference by the American Jewish Conference," Sadd questioned the methods of persuasion used by the AIC and referred to the lawsuit the organization brought against the U.S. Treasury Department to discontinue the Saudi-U.S. Economic Commission.

Sadd said there are several nations, Israel included, which have been granted reciprocal status. Several non-Arab members of the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) are investing in the United States, Sadd said.

In 1981, Canada, Sweden, and Cyprus were all granted reciprocal status, even though all three have laws limiting foreign investment in energy-related firms. Also in 1981, Kuwait Petroleum Corp. bought Santa Fe International Corp. for \$2.5 billion. Headquartered in Alhambra, Calif., Santa Fe is a major drilling, exploratory and petroleum services firm.

Watt said that the government has earmarked Hong Kong \$35 million (\$5.8 million) for a 21-month pilot test of the scheme. If it proves satisfactory, the system will be operational by 1987 at a cost of Hong Kong \$300 million to \$350 million (\$50 to \$55 million).

According to a preliminary estimate, it would cost the average driver an extra Hong Kong \$200 (\$33) a month.

Each of Hong Kong's 350,000 vehicles is to be fitted underneath with an electronic number plate, a tamper-proof unit the size of a cassette tape. Buried under the road surface at congested locations throughout the colony will be electronic loops which will broadcast a beam at the plate of every vehicle passing over it.

The plate returns to the loops coded information about the vehicle which is then transmitted to a central computer. The appropriate fee is added to the car owner's account and a bill sent monthly.

If this is not complicated enough, the system will have at each charging point an electronic display that will tell the driver how much his car will be charged.

If you think you can beat the system, forget it, says Scott. It will also

be able to detect vehicles on the roads with overdue accounts as well as cases of fraud and vandalism. Scott has called the plan fair because it gives the motorist the choice of "whether and when to travel by reference to costs."

"Those who are prepared to pay will travel more easily because all traffic will travel more easily." But the Hong Kong Automobile Association has termed the plan an expensive "electronic gimmick."

Association President Phil Taylor said the system has not been tested anywhere and the large sum of money could be spent more profitably on improving roads or building new ones. He said the installation, monitoring and billing will mean "employment of yet another group of civil servants at high cost."

The government's announcement of the new scheme comes less than a year after it doubled the import tax on private cars and hiked license fees a whopping 300 percent. Scott said then that those steps were needed to prevent Hong Kong from coming to a halt in one massive traffic snarl up.

He warned that Hong Kong would be in dire trouble if goods vehicles, which play a crucial economic role, are unable to move efficiently and police are prevented from performing their duties because of traffic jams.

This colony has the world's highest density of vehicles — 282 per kilometer of roadway. Its more than five million people are packed into an area just over 1,000 square kilometers (400 sq miles), with three quarters of them living and working in less than 40 square kilometers (16 sq miles) of urban space.

Trading dull on tanker mart

LONDON, April 1 (AFP) — Conditions were extremely quiet on the tanker market this week in the run-up to the holiday season.

Oil companies and brokers appear to have turned their back on the Gulf area, at least for the time being.

They currently prefer the shorter hauls to Europe, which enable them to avoid hanging on to cargoes any longer than necessary in case the spot price of crude oil eases.

But Indian charterers did book an Iranian VLCC (very large crude carrier) of nearly 220,000 tons out of the Saudi Arabian port of Ras Tanura for a part cargo of 115,000 tons of crude oil. There was another movement from this port to Genoa.

The proposed oil price cut by the British National Oil Corp. (BNOC) made little impression. Shipbrokers said that conditions in the North Sea sector could improve next week.

Nissan to make trucks in Egypt

TOKYO, April 1 (AP) — Nissan Motor Co., Japan's second largest automaker, said Friday it has submitted a plan to produce small trucks in Egypt jointly with Modern Motors Co. of Egypt, beginning in 1985 at the earliest.

Nissan officials said the company has given the production plan to the Egyptian government, which is seeking Japanese cooperation in Egypt's home production plans for autos.

The plans call for construction of a plant capable of producing 1,000 small trucks a year two years after the Egyptian government approves the project, the officials said.

The trucks, ranging from one- to three-ton capacity, will be produced initially in Egypt with almost all parts supplied from Japan, but after five years about 60 percent of the parts will be obtained in Egypt, the officials said.

Nissan exported 2,801 trucks to Egypt in 1982, accounting for 15 percent of Japan's total truck exports to that country.

NAAA to press Santa issue

By Martin Bureau
Houston Bureau

HOUSTON, April 1 — The National Association of Arab-Americans (NAAA), through use of the federal Freedom of Information Act, will request that Interior Secretary James Watt make public all non-sensitive records and transcripts pertinent to his decision to deny drilling rights on U.S. government lands to Santa Fe International Corp., a subsidiary of the Kuwait Petroleum Corp.

Originally supported by the Reagan administration as the start of a foreign investment boom in the United States, Watt's sudden about-face on the decision to allow Kuwait access to federal leases has come under sharp criticism from NAAA.

Speaking at a Washington, D.C. press conference, David Sadd, director of NAAA, said his organization wants transcripts and meeting logs of sessions between Watt and the American Jewish Conference (AJC). Sadd said NAAA is interested in how much influ-

U.S. to develop 'supercomputers'

WASHINGTON, April 1 (AFP) — The Pentagon wants \$50 million from Congress to back development of "fifth generation" computers that are 1,000 times faster than today's front-runners, Defense Department officials announced here Friday.

The Japanese Ministry of International Trade and Industry (MITI) has invested hundreds of millions of dollars in a 10-year fifth generation development program, they noted.

In January the National Science Foundation here warned that Japan could overtake the United States in the data handling sector unless government aid was forthcoming.

The proposed research program, run by the Advanced Research Projects Agency (ARPA), would cover applications for the new generation machines.

World Bank lends Peking \$100 million

WASHINGTON, April 1 (AFP) — The World Bank has announced a \$100.8 million loan to Communist China to help finance oil production in the Zhongyuan Basin, some 500 kilometers (300 miles) south of Peking.

The Zhongyuan project, calling for expenditure of \$500 million, is intended to increase the production potential of the south and east Wenhui fields, where experts have found signs of major exploitable deposits.

Plans include a detailed seismological survey of the fields, the drilling of more than 200 production wells and two dozen test holes, and the construction of a liquefied natural gas plant intended to reach production of one million cubic meters of gas daily by 1986.

To attain these goals, China needs financing to cover heavy consulting fees and obtain modern research material, computerized analysis centers, and laboratories.

Thursday's credit — a 20-year loan with a five-year grace period and a variable interest rate — is the second extended by the World Bank for a Chinese oil project. The first, granted in January, involved \$162.4 million for the development of the Daqing fields in northeastern China.

Aimed at banks

Turkey set for fiscal reforms

ANKARA, April 1 (R) — Turkey's military-appointed National Consultative Assembly has approved sweeping powers requested by the cabinet to change much of the country's finance laws, clearing the way for a long-promised shake-up of the banks and capital markets.

The assembly voted in favor of the authority at a session Thursday night and it will now go for final approval to the ruling military National Security Council.

During Thursday night's debate, Finance Minister Adnan Baser Kafaoglu said he would convene a meeting of the country's top bankers next week before publishing a decree outlining the changes he plans in the financial sector. Turkey's 40 commercial banks and other financial institutions have been in disarray since last year when they were plunged into crisis by the collapse of the country's brokerage houses, which competed with the banks for savers' deposits, and the inability of recession-hit industrial borrowers to pay back loans.

Kafaoglu is widely expected to force some of the weaker banks into mergers, loosen the control over the banking sector of large private industrial holdings which currently own most of the private banks and set up some sort of formal capital market.

Foreign bankers say most of the domestic banks have too many branches, are inefficiently managed and have inadequate accounting methods. Kafaoglu has already said he plans to make the appointment of senior bank executives subject to Finance Ministry approval.

Accepts IMF terms for credit

ANKARA, April 1 (R) — Turkey has agreed to terms set by the International Monetary Fund (IMF) for a one-year standby credit to replace a three-year \$1.6 billion loan which expires in June, central bank officials said Thursday.

They said the new agreement was based on a continuation of an economic program imposed shortly before Turkey was granted the \$1.6 billion in 1980. Under this, inflation has been brought down to around 25 percent annually from over 100 percent.

The new agreement set credit ceilings in line with Ankara's inflation target of 20 percent this year and called for the continuation of the daily adjustment of the Turkish lira.

Electronic shock numbs Hong Kong motorists

HONG KONG, April 1 (AP) — After grappling unsuccessfully for years with chaotic traffic, the government of this tiny British colony has decided to charge motorists for the privilege of driving on congested roads.

The plan, electronic road pricing, has sent shudders through Hong Kong's 230,000 private motorists, who will be the system's main targets.

Secretary of Transport Alan Scott dropped the bombshell last week when he announced that the government has earmarked Hong Kong \$35 million (\$5.8 million) for a 21-month pilot test of the scheme. If it proves satisfactory, the system will be operational by 1987 at a cost of Hong Kong \$300 million to \$350 million (\$50 to \$55 million).

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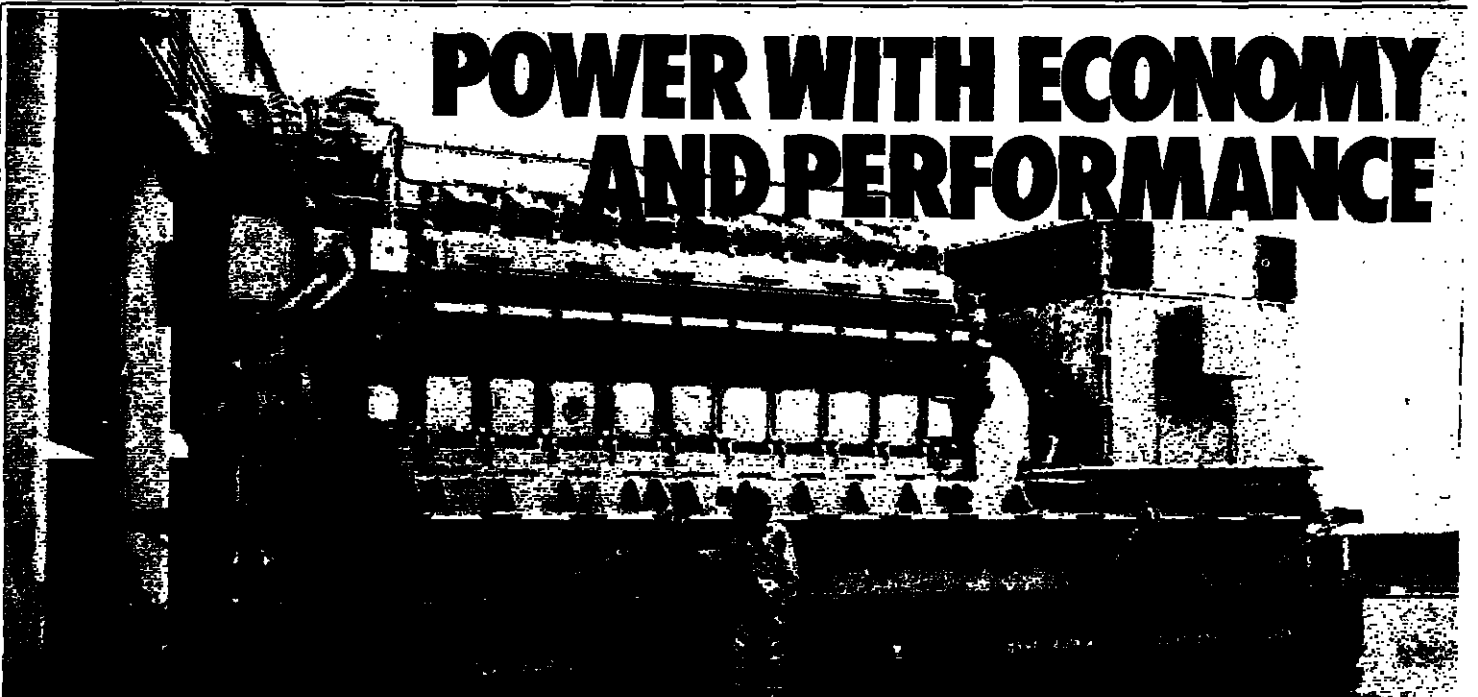
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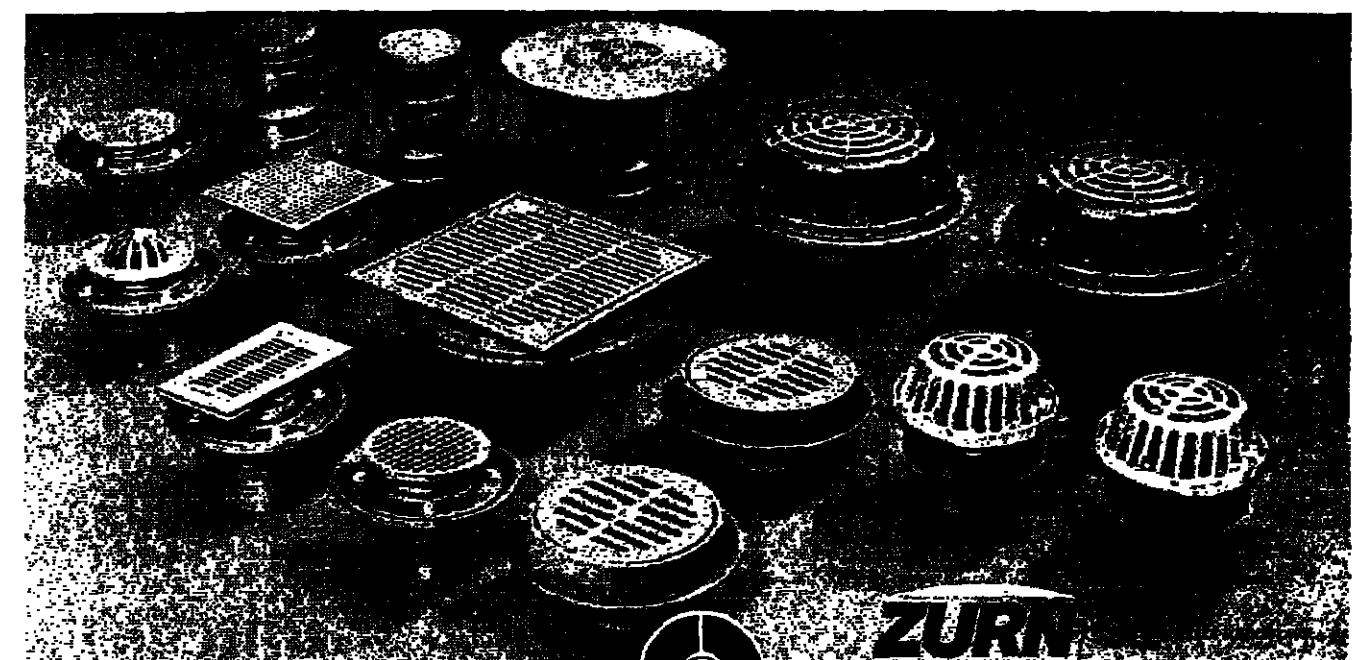
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Common problems discussed

Turkey joins U.S. to fight EEC subsidy

ANKARA, April 1 (R) — The United States said Friday it had gained Turkey as a new ally in its battle against European Community food subsidies.

U.S. and Turkish officials discussed their common problems over Common Market price support programs which the U.S. says undercut food exports from both countries on world markets, visiting U.S. Agriculture Secretary John Block told reporters after a series of meetings in Ankara. "We see Turkey as an ally in the front we are presenting against EEC subsidies. There are certain agricultural issues we have in common and which we need to deal with together," Block said.

The United States complains it has lost sales in its traditional markets due to an unfair farm subsidies policy by the European Economic Community of about \$7 billion a year. Block noted that both Turkey and the U.S. have recently found exports to the community difficult because of such price supports. He said he had discussed this issue

with Turkish officials but no solution had been reached.

Turkey is the first net exporter of food products that Block has visited on his 10-day tour of North Africa and the Middle East to drum up interest in U.S. agricultural exports. He said the United States wanted to be more aggressive in exporting to the Turkish market and had decided to station a full-time U.S. agricultural attaché in Ankara.

He said he had asked Turkey to relax its present import restrictions on the amount of U.S. soybeans entering the country, Turkish officials agreed to reconsider the restrictions but gave no guarantee they will be lifted, he said. Block said he had also discussed Turkish imports of U.S. wheat and feed grains, adding Turkish officials said they would not know for at least another month whether further imports would be necessary.

He said there was potential for an increase in such imports as Turkey develops its domestic livestock industry over the next five years.

New Japanese device hikes computer memory capacity

TOKYO, April 1 (Agencies) — A major Japanese semiconductor maker, NEC, Corp., Friday said it has developed a new technique to drastically expand memory capacity in computer memory devices, enabling units to store as much as 4,000 times more information than under conventional methods.

Koichi Yoshimi of the NEC (formerly Nippon Electric Co.) research laboratory said one billion bits of information can be stored in a semiconductor chip one-centimeter (a half-inch) square in size by using the new method, called the Bloch line memory. Compared to a 256 kilo-bit semiconductor chip, the largest available on the market, a Bloch line chip will be able to store in the giga-bit (billion-bit) range, he said.

Jointly developed by Professor Susumu Konishi of Kyushu National University and NEC researchers, the technique is a technological leap from the conventional magnetic bubble memory chip, Yoshimi said. In a bubble chip, computerized information — in electronic signals of either one or zero — corresponds to the absence or presence of microspheres, or bubbles, with reverse magnetic forces.

However, in the Bloch line method, the information is stored through the absence or presence of thin, twisted magnetic fields that form around the bubbles. These twists are called Bloch lines, named after the Swiss-born American physicist Felix Bloch. As much as 100 of these twists can be made to form around a bubble, Yoshimi said.

At an access speed of one one-thousandth of a second, a comparatively slow speed for semiconductor chips, the Bloch line chip will

not be used inside the computer but will instead make a superb exterior memory device, he said, adding that the access speed of the chip is equivalent to that of floppy discs. Access speed is the time it takes for information to be recorded in or retrieved from a device.

The NEC researcher said his company does not have any immediate plans for mass-production. An NEC delegate will report on the Bloch line method to the international magnetics conference to be held in Philadelphia from April 5 to 8.

Meanwhile, the Japanese cabinet Friday approved a bill aimed at developing new centers for high-technology industries, such as semiconductors, computers and biotechnology across the country as cores of regional development. The bill was presented to the Diet (parliament) immediately.

The bill will provide for tax breaks, financial help and other forms of preferential treatment to facilitate the development of the new industrial centers dubbed "technopolis." Parliamentary passage of the bill seems assured as the measure already has bipartisan support. Indications are that the government will designate the first "technopolis" area toward the end of this year.

The Ministry of International Trade and Industry (MITI) already named 19 candidate sites in August last year, including Hamamatsu, Shizuoka prefecture, and Nagasaki, Niigata prefecture. Under the legislation, the sources said, high-tech firms, setting up plants in the designated "technopolis" centers, would be granted tax credits on their investment.

9,000 workers will lose jobs in U.K. shipyards

LONDON, April 1 (AFP) — Some 9,000 jobs, one in seven, will disappear in Britain's state-controlled shipyards this year, the management announced. The workforce at present totals 62,000.

The management also forecast that Britain may have no shipbuilding industry at all in three years time unless policy is changed. British shipbuilders are calling for a total pay freeze this year, and also intend to ask for government aid to cope with subsidized foreign rivals.

"Prices quoted by South Korea and Japan bear no relation to the truth," the company chairman Sir Robert Atkinson said. He wanted state aid to modernize the yards and encourage British shipping lines to renew their fleets under a "scrap and build scheme" in which they would buy British vessels.

Sir Robert affirmed that South Korean and Japanese yards were selling ships to Europe at below the cost of material and equipment. "Even if we worked for nothing, we would still not equal their prices," he said. He made no recommendation as to how the government could deal with this situation.

But he added that the government had let the industry run down excessively. Now it needed help due to sluggish world trade, with some 16 percent of British ships idle, four times the percentage of a year ago.

The worst hit yard under the jobs reduction program will be Scott Lithgow in Scotland, where half the 5,500 jobs will go. This yard had a record of inefficiency, and has constantly failed to meet delivery dates, he said. The trade unions concerned plan a meeting of delegates this month from all the shipyards.

Natural gas crisis may hit West by '90s, study shows

LONDON, April 1 (AP) — A shortage of natural gas supplies in the West is likely to bring a new energy crisis by the 1990s and could leave the West dependent on Soviet and Third World supplies, a report by a London investment research firm said Thursday.

According to analyst Mehdi Varzi of Grieson, Grant and Co., "the expected switch away from oil to gas imports is likely to pose the same kind of problems which oil posed in the 1970s." Natural gas price and supply may become increasingly unstable "unless the consuming nations take action to minimize their vulnerability," the report said.

The answer to the West's potentially vulnerable position was increased development of possible reserves in the Arctic Circle, especially in Norway, it said. The report, billed as the first world overview of future natural gas supply and demand, summarized published statistics from nations around the world.

The Soviet Union currently produces 30 percent of the world's supply — about 17

trillion cubic feet — and the United States, 34 percent or 19.6 trillion cubic feet, it said. But the Soviets with 30 percent of the world's reserves are expected to overtake the United States as the world's leading producer next year and boost its production to over 30 TCF by the turn of the century.

The United States controls only 14 percent of the world's reserves and is expected to be importing a fifth of its natural gas supply by then, it said.

World production currently at 57 TCF is expected to rise to 90 TCF by the end of century, with nearly 70 percent coming from Third World countries, the report said. With demand rising in the West, Varzi predicted the top six European Common Market nations will be importing 41 percent of their natural gas from the Soviets and North Africa by the 1990s.

Britain has the advantage of natural gas wells in the North Sea, but Varzi said reserves will be drying up by the turn of the century.

Unemployment declines in U.S.

WASHINGTON, April 1 (AP) — America's civilian unemployment rate declined to 10.3 percent in March, only the second such decline since the economy plunged into a deep recession in the summer of 1981, the government reported Friday.

The 0.1 percentage point decline in unemployment followed two months of standstill 10.4 percent civilian joblessness. Nonetheless, nearly 11.4 million people remained on the unemployment rolls.

An alternate unemployment rate, which includes the 1.7 million military personnel stationed in the United States, fell an identical 0.1 percentage point — from 10.2 percent to 10.1 percent. There were several bright signs of improving job prospects in the March

statistics reported Friday.

The number of "discouraged workers," for instance, those who are unemployed but have given up looking for a job, held steady at 1.8 million after rising for the last six consecutive quarters. In addition, the Bureau of Labor Statistics reported, the number of people forced to accept part-time work last month for lack of anything better fell by nearly 500,000, to 6.2 million. Most of that decline, the bureau noted, "was among workers who usually work full time but experienced a reduction in their weekly hours."

And the average workweek rose by 30 minutes to a seasonally adjusted 34.9 hours, following a decline in working hours in February.

BRIEFS

RIO DE JANEIRO (AFP) — Volkswagen in Brazil has started shipping 20,000 "Passat" cars to Iraq under contract terms covering this year. Another 30,000 will be delivered between 1984 and 1986.

TAIPEI (AP) — Taiwan's government, citing the harmful effects on children, Friday banned all video game parlors throughout the island.

NIAMEY (AFP) — The Niger govern-

ment is to cut more than half the number of government vehicles and sharply reduce the list of people entitled to use them, under new austerity measures announced here.

BELGRADE (AFP) — A Chinese economic and foreign trade delegation left Peking last week for "a discreet visit" to Albania, the first since the two countries broke off economic ties in 1975, the daily newspaper Politika said here Thursday.

IMF mission scrutinizes French austerity measures

PARIS, April 1 (AFP) — The new French economic austerity drive announced last week has been scrutinized closely for excessive protectionism by a visiting International Monetary Fund (IMF) mission, sources said here Thursday.

The mission, led by the IMF's director for Europe, Allan Whettome, wrapped up its annual look at France's economic and financial state today after a 10-day visit that coincided with the announcement of the austerity plan. Reliable sources said that France's trade policies, particularly its so-called Potters offensive against imports of Japanese video cassette recorders (VCR's), were closely examined by the IMF team.

The sources said that France was soon likely to drop its ruling that all VCR imports be routed through the tiny and remote customs office of Poitiers — a move that reduced the customs clearance of imports to a snail's pace. The sources said that France would probably replace the measures with a system whereby the Japanese would inform Paris in advance of all video imports, allowing the extent of the imports to be closely monitored. Each year the IMF sends missions to examine the economic and financial management of all its 146 member nations.

Meanwhile as French travel agents con-

tinued to rage at the government's stringent new limits on foreign exchange allowances for tourists, small businessmen rose up in arms against state checks on their prices. The tradesmen were reacting to tough new anti-inflation measures, directed particularly at butchers and fishmongers, whereby businessmen flouting price accords more than once could have their shops closed down temporarily. The offenders face prosecution, stiff fines, and publication of their offence in the press.

The government can also force them to cut their prices to those ruling at the start of last year's three-month price freeze in June, less the amount of their overcharge. Representatives of the tradesmen said angrily after their meeting with government officials that the tough enforcement measures bore no relation to the small number of offenders, and were designed to intimidate. One said that France was entering a phase of "democracy with a big stick," and another was bitter about the 300 price inspectors currently checking prices in Parisian cafes.

But economics ministry officials replied that tradesmen who respected price agreements signed after the end of the price freeze had nothing to fear. The accords are aimed at keeping inflation down to eight percent this year.

Polish meat, sugar supplies improve

WARSAW, April 1 (R) — Polish authorities Friday gave shoppers optimistic news on meat and sugar supplies which contrasted with recent dire warnings of even further cuts in living standards.

The official PAP news agency said meat supplies would be 6,000 tons higher than originally planned in the second quarter of the year and supplies in the first quarter were 13,000 tons higher than projected. The increase this month was due mainly to extra supplies for Easter, one of the nation's main festivals.

There has been growing concern about maintaining the meat ration level of 2.5 kg per month later in the year as the animal population declines due to a high slaughter rate. PAP said supplies of sugar, for which rationing was ended last month, were also increasing and grain supplies to the market would be maintained at the present levels.

The agency also gave encouraging figures on coal extraction, a mainstay of the economy. It said 47.5 million tons of coal were mined in the first quarter, a 100-percent increase over the same period last year which

followed the imposition of martial law.

Poles have been repeatedly warned of further cuts in living standards following the drop of more than 20 percent in 1982. The Communist Party called a special meeting of about 2,300 workers in the capital Wednesday to explain and try to justify austerity plans aimed at cutting waste, fighting inflation and putting the chaotic economy on a sounder footing.

Prime Minister Wojciech Jaruzelski told the meeting of concrete schemes to get more work done, raise production and ease the chronic supply shortages. They included encouraging retired people to resume work for a number of years to counteract a shortage of manpower in many key industries. Young people were asked to work on days off or vacations and to enter schemes with management to use the extra pay and profits for new housing programs.

Gen. Jaruzelski, whose speech was carried by the official newspapers Friday, attacked those who refused to commit themselves to working for Poland's recovery under the existing system.

Top European firms plan talks

AMSTERDAM, April 1 (R) — Leaders of about 17 of the largest West European companies are to meet in Paris for two days next week to discuss initiatives to help economic recovery, a spokesman for the Philips Electronics group said Thursday.

The meeting, thought to be unique of its kind, will probably take place on April 6 and 7, according to Dutch industry sources. A representative from the U.S. United Technologies Company and two commissioners of the European Economic Community, Francois-Bavier Ortol and Etienne Davignon, are also expected to be present.

The meeting, which is being held at the invitation of Pehr Gyllenhammar, head of the Swedish Volvo car company, will cover possible closer cooperation between the companies to help economic growth, the sources said. Entitled "European initiatives," it will discuss measures to deal with slump in indus-

try and growing unemployment in Europe, the sources added.

The companies have a combined annual turnover of about \$250 billion and employ more than two 2.6 million people, they said. They include Europe's top-ranking company, Shell Transport and Trading, as well as Philips, Fiat, Unilever, ICI, Renault, Nestlé, Ciba-Geigy and Siemens.

The Philips spokesman said company chairman Wisse Dekker would attend but he was unable to give details of the planned discussions. Among other companies which the sources said would attend were Lafarge-Coppee and Saint Gobain of France, Thyssen and Robert Bosch of West Germany and Olivetti of Italy.

BSN-Gervais-Danone, the French food concern, and the Swedish energy and transport group Asea are also expected, the sources said.

SAUDI ARABIAN GOVERNMENT TENDERS

Authority	Description	Tender Number	Tender Price	Closure Date
Interior Ministry, Department of Jails	Renovations & electrical works at the Reformatory in Makkah	18/M/N	500	Apr. 9
" " "	Carry out roof insulation for the jails of Abha, Khamis Mushait & Dhahran Al-Janoub	19/M/N	200	Apr. 10
" " "	Construction of an internal fence, room, sun-shade etc. for Tabuk's jail	20/M/N	500	Apr. 11
" " "	Construction of 6 halls & 5 bath-rooms for Makkah's jail	21/M/N	500	Apr. 12

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SHIPS MOVEMENT UPTO 0700 HOURS ON 16TH J'ATHANI 1403/30TH MARCH, 1983

1. SHIPS DISCHARGING:

Berth	Name of Vessel	Agent	Type of Cargo	Arrival
1.	Merzario Persia	A.E.T.	Containers	29.3.83
3.	Hellenic Ideal	Alpha	Bagged Rice	26.3.83
4.	Interspirit	Mofarrij	Bagged Wheat	27.3.83
5.	Orndurman	Shobokshi	Tiles/Steel/Timber	22.3.83
7.	Saudi Star	M.E.S.A.	Barley/Onions	25.3.83
9.	Raimar 1	El Hawi	Timber	22.3.83
11.	Maldive Noble	O.Trade	Gen./Ldg.	25.3.83
12.	Atalaya	Gulf	Cont./Steel	23.3.83
14.	Chion Med	O.C.E.	Oranges	25.3.83
15.	Asia Freezer	O.C.E.	Chicken/Butter	21.3.83
16.	Nordino	Shobokshi	Containers	23.3.83
17.	Ikarian Reefer	O.C.E.	Reefer	17.3.83
18.	Odysseus	Rolaco	Bulk Cement	22.3.83
20.	Firat	O.C.E.	Building Matr./Cable	22.3.83
21.	Saudi Kawther	M.E.S.A.	Timber/General	22.3.83
22.	Nova Gorica	S.S.M.S.C.	Timber/General	22.3.83
23.	Northland	O.C.E.	Bagged Cement	23.3.83
24.	Saudi Enterprise	M.E.S.A.	General	20.3.83
25.	Bronislaw Lachowicz	Attar	Contrs./Gen.	22.3.83
27.	Saudi Almedina	M.E.S.A.	General	24.3.83
28.	Al Zahrah	Star	Oranges/Lemons	22.3.83
31.	Alfajr Alsaidi IV	Alsabah	Tiles/Marble	21.3.83

KING ABDUL AZIZ PORT DAMMAM

SHIPS MOVEMENT UPTO 0700 HOURS OF 16.6.1403/30.3.1983 CHANGES FOR THE PAST 24 HOURS

1. VESSELS DISCHARGING:

No.	Vessel Name	Agent	Type of Cargo	Arrival
2.	Haabarak	SMC	Gen./Steel	29.3.83
4.	Barakath	Orr	Gen/Fert	27.3.83
5.	Hoegh Clipper	Kanoo	Gen./Cont.	24.3.83
6.	Ming Autumn	Gulf	Gen./Timber	23.3.83
7.	Shaymathree	OCE	General	23.3.83
8.	Tarposanitiago	Kanoo	General	23.3.83
10.	Evermoreascendant	Kanoo	Steel/Gen.	22.3.83
12.	Kashi Maru	Gulf	Steel	19.3.83
14.	Jasmine	Shobokshi	General	20.3.83
15.	Chanab	SEA	Gen./Rice	21.3.83
16.	Hellenic Patriot	Gulf	General	18.3.83
17.	Jagsheldi	SMC	Gen./Steel	23.3.83
18.	K Jastrzbie	Orr	Barley	19.3.83
19.	Deccan Pioneer	Orr	Barley	21.3.83
22.	Evilyn Maarak	Kanoo	Gen./Cont.	22.3.83
23.	Jollyturchese	Gosabli	Containers	23.3.83
25.	Hual Trapper	Kanoo	Cars	23.3.83
26.	Furnura	Saita	Flour	24.3.83
28.	Ibn Yunus	Kanoo	Gen./Cont.	22.3.83
32.	Yidu	Orr	General	23.3.83

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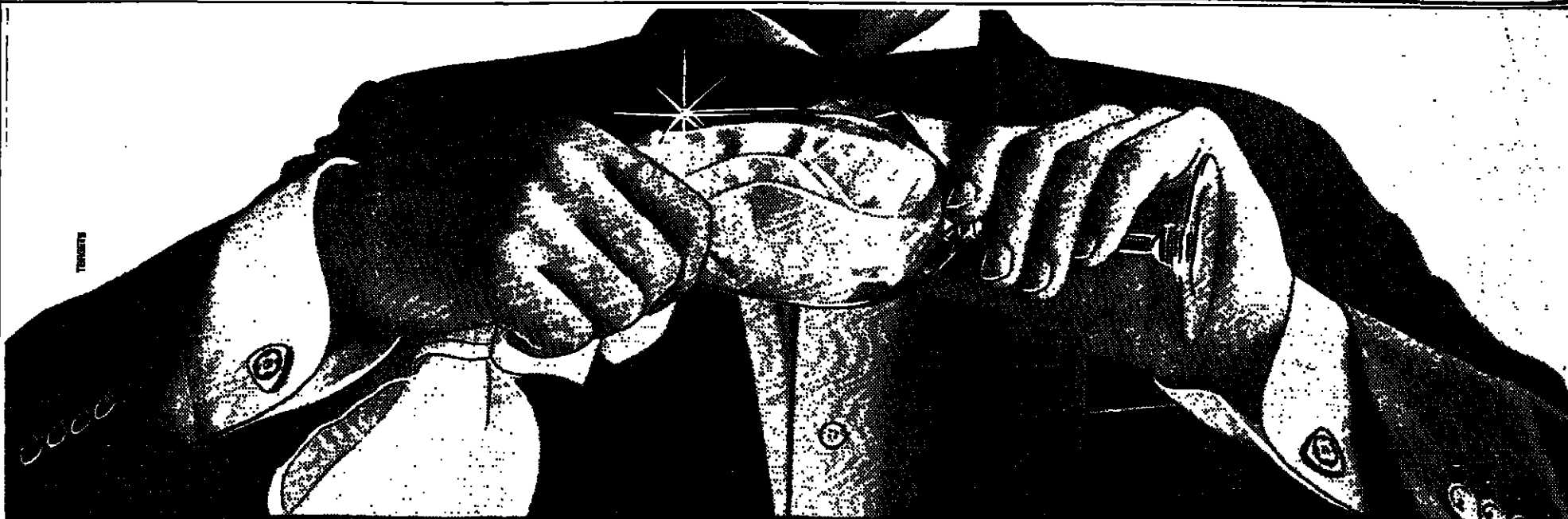
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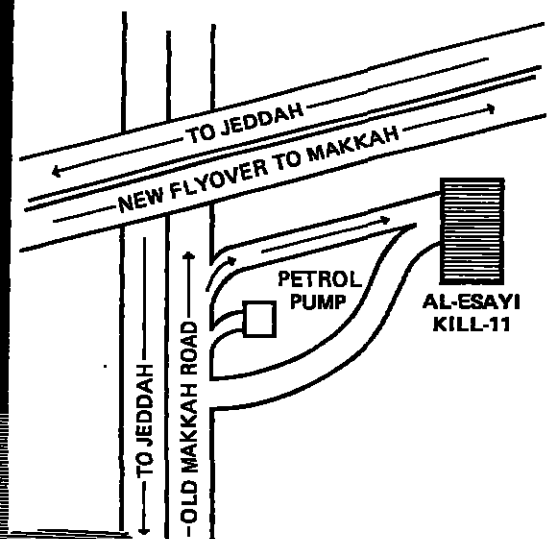
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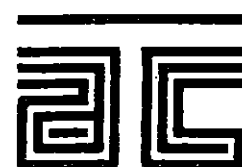
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Briton recreates Moscow in Finland

By Chris Mosey

HELSINKI (LOS) — British director Michael Apted, who is filming Martin Cruz Smith's best-selling thriller *Gorky Park*, looked in despair at a gray, rain-filled sky over Helsinki. "Snow," he muttered, "I need snow. If I don't get snow in the next few days I'm in bad trouble."

An unexpectedly early spring in Finland is threatening the \$12 million production. Already Apted has had to transport two tons of snow from the Arctic north and has been forced to use paper snow for storm scenes. Now he faces the choice of either moving the entire set above the Arctic Circle or of covering parts of the Finnish capital with tons of raw Epsom salt to get the desired effect.

Apted will almost certainly opt for the real snow in the wilderness that is Finnish Lapland, despite the monumental problems of recreating sets and accommodating his 120-strong cast and crew and over 300 extras. "I'll probably go north," he said gloomily, "but I reckon it will put us way over our budget if we do."

Apted, born on the outskirts of London, educated at Cambridge and a resident of Los Angeles since 1979, has for the past eight months been obsessed with turning Helsinki into Moscow for what is likely to be one of the biggest box-office attractions in the Orwellian year of 1984.

"We did ask for permission to film in Moscow, you know," he said. "Of course the answer was no but it was worth a try." The refusal ruled out Apted's preferred method of steeping himself in the atmosphere of the place he is filming long before the cameras start rolling. For *The Cool World's Daughter*, he lived in Kentucky for six months before filming started, "sorting out what was true and what was false, getting the whole feel of the place."

For *Gorky Park* he had to be content with just two weeks in Moscow. Still, as someone else on set pointed out, this was all the time Cruz Smith has for his research on the novel.

When filming started in Helsinki in February, the snow was five feet deep in places. The city's Kaisaniemi Park was chosen to double for the Muscovian Gorky.

The part of Arkady Renko, the book's honest, painstaking Moscow policeman hero, is played by the hyper-intense William Hurt. "He is terrific," says Apted, "he absolutely lives the part. The film is him after all. He's in nearly every scene. He is totally absorbed in what he is doing."

Osborne, the villain, is played by Lee Marvin. "It's a new departure for him," said Apted, who flew to Marvin's home in Tucson, Arizona, to discuss the part with him last year. "He will be playing his first elegant heavy. I think he's going to be great."

Polish actress Joanna Pacula, who left her homeland when military rule was declared in December 1981, has the main female role of Irina, Arkady's friend, a woman desperate to get out of Russia. "If Joanna pulls this off, and I think she will, she's going to be a very big star indeed," said Apted. "She's very good. I like working with her."

A distinguished cast of character actors includes Michael Elphick as a KGB informer and Brian Dennehy, a 6 foot 3 inches, 250 pound New Yorker of Irish descent as Kirwill, the American cop who goes to Moscow to avenge the murder of his brother.

Dennis Potter wrote the script, changing the last part of the book, originally set in New York and now moved to Stockholm, where the crewmen are due to arrive in May. "I agreed with him absolutely on this," said Apted. "We have Russians speaking English all through the movie. I just didn't see how I could deal with New York. How on earth would I solve the language problem — differentiate between the Americans and the Russians?"

"We are loyal to the spirit of the novel but as a film-maker you have to take liberties."

In his quest for authenticity, Apted has recreated Moscow streets in Helsinki, imported 150 Russian uniforms, 60 Lada, Volga and Moskvitch cars and has a Russian emigre advising him on detail down to the way a Russian smokes a cigarette.

As part of this drive for perfection, Michael Elphick had to have silver fillings put in his teeth. "There is no excuse for getting it wrong," says Apted. "The challenge of making this movie was to be able to recreate the Russian atmosphere. To an American public it should look as alien as *Star Wars*, something totally beyond their range of experience."



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Arthur Miller staging Chinese Death of a Salesman

By Michael Parks

PEKING (LAT) — To playwright Arthur Miller, the Chinese suggestion that he direct a new production of his classic *Death of a Salesman* in Peking in Chinese was a shock. The difficulty was not just that he could not speak Chinese, Miller said, but also that he doubted whether Willy Loman, the traveling salesman who is the play's principal character, could.

The 1949 Pulitzer Prize-winning play could certainly be translated into Chinese, even with all its American idioms, as it has been translated into dozens of other languages, but Miller questioned whether the play's ideas could be translated and understood in a culture so different as China's.

"It is one thing to understand a declarative

sentence," Miller said, speaking equally of the problems of translating the play and of his directing it for a Chinese audience, "and another to understand an emotion, a complicated emotion (taken into another culture)...I wasn't sure anyone could do this, and I am not sure I can."

But Miller gradually warmed to the idea over two years and eventually accepted the challenge. He arrived in Peking last month to direct a People's Art Theater cast in the first Chinese production of the play, which will open May 7.

"If I succeed, the production will make a statement that human beings are human beings," Miller told journalists during a break between rehearsals. "Their cultures are tremendously different, but underneath is homo sapiens. He is there, and I am hoping to

reach him."

Ying Ruocheng, who is the assistant director, the play's translator and the actor who will play Willy Loman, agreed.

"The emotions of the people involved are not so different," Miller reflected. "There does seem to be a kind of space between us — space that is very difficult to bridge — and we are not sure of the cues we get from the Chinese, as they are probably not sure of those we give them. Drama is two-thirds emotional signals, and I wondered, 'how am I going to get them to give the right signals if I don't understand their signals. But I am hardly worried anymore. It turns out they're human.'"

Death of a Salesman, which turns on Willy Loman's feelings of failure and his conflict with his son, may be the best-suited of all his

plays for a Chinese production, Miller said, though he acknowledged that the figure of a traveling salesman will seem rather alien in Communist China.

"The salesman idea is a metaphor. It is the whole process of selling oneself, making oneself valuable, finding an identity through whatever people think of you," Miller said, "and this goes on in China, too."

The play is also "built around fundamental family emotions that reach through society," he added, remarking that "the Chinese are practically the inventors of the family" and should be able to relate to these emotions even in an American context.

"Of course, it is about American society," Miller said, "But I have the feeling that the audience will discover Chinese society... That

they will identify with people."

In rehearsing the production, Miller said, he has had fewer problems than he expected, though they are still in the first act with six weeks to go. One problem has been getting the actors to speak more quickly, more naturally and to each other rather than to the audience.

This is the third time Miller has directed *Death of a Salesman*, but the first time he has directed it, or any of his plays, in a foreign language.

Ying, is best known in the West for his portrayal of Kublai Khan, the Mongol emperor, in the television series on the travels of Marco Polo in 13th-century China. He translated the play in two months, using colloquial Chinese with a strong Peking pronunciation rather than literary Chinese.

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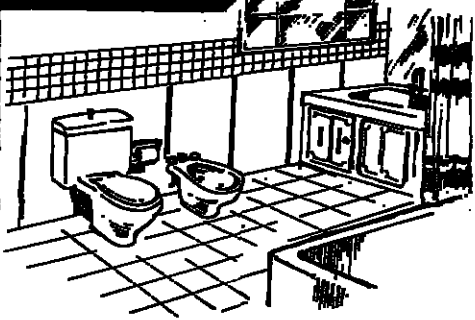
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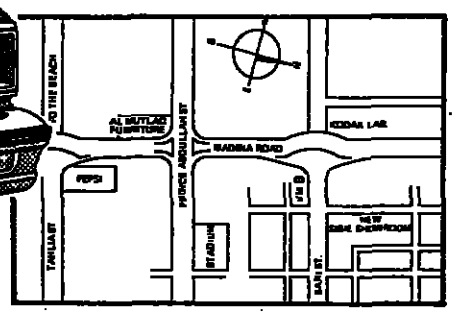
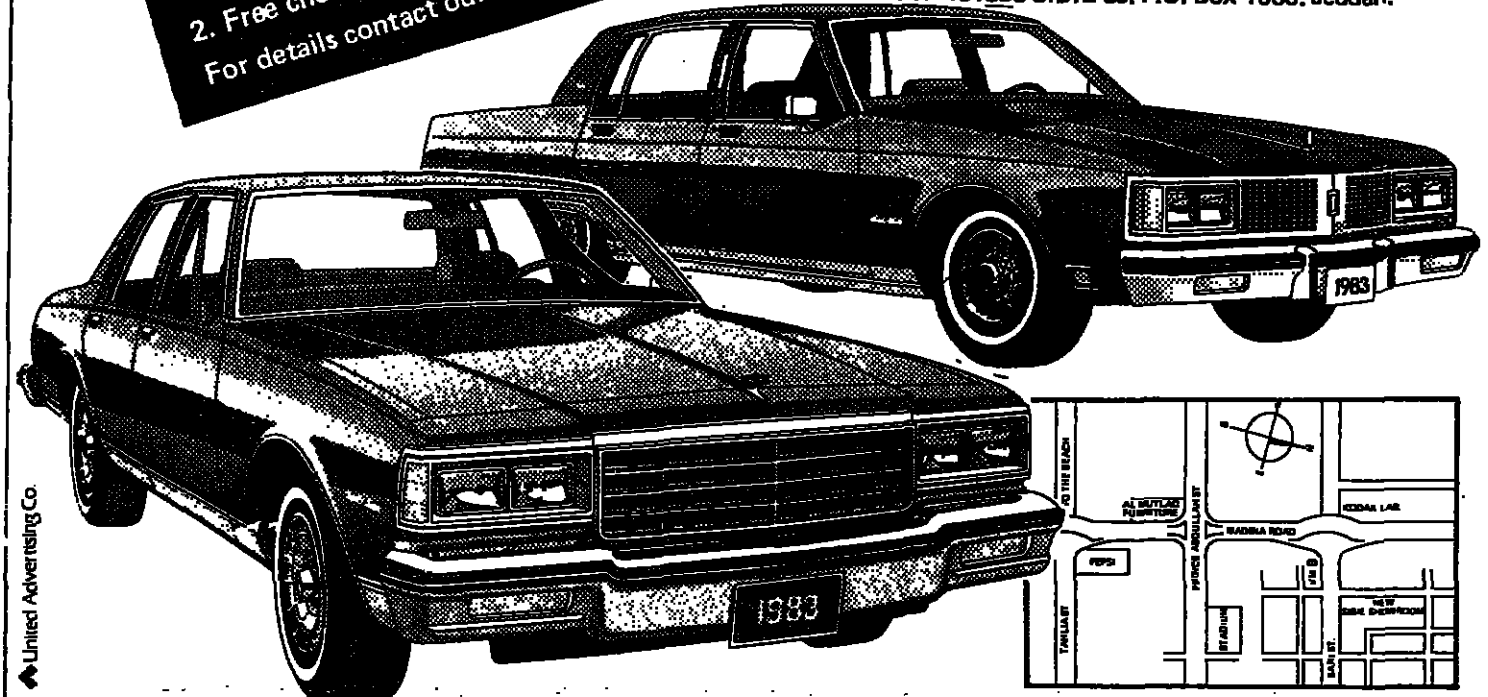
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Wanted: plastic heart volunteer

By Christine Doyle
WASHINGTON (LOS) — An ethical debate has begun after the death of Barney B. Clark, the Seattle dentist who survived for 112 days after receiving the world's first permanent mechanical heart.

A number of doctors believe the plastic heart, connected by six-foot-long tubes to a bulky external compressor weighing 375 lb, was implanted prematurely, despite Clark's willingness to become a guinea pig, and despite the undoubted contribution to medical science.

Apart from obvious constraints on the

Scientists study meaning of dreams

GAINESVILLE, Florida (AP) — People who fret about the meaning of dreams could be wasting their time, because the nighttime images may be no more than random pictures strung together by the brain, a sleep researcher says.

"There is no evidence for a psychological purpose of dreaming. It is obvious that exactly the same state exists in the dog, the ape, and the rat," said Wilse Webb, a behavioral psychologist who has done sleep research for more than 20 years at the University of Florida. He also conducted research last year to test a theory of two Harvard University professors.

According to the theory of Robert W. McCarley and J. Allan Hobson, every 90 minutes during sleep the central nervous system is stimulated leading to a conversion by brain of stored memories and images into dreams.

During the university of Florida study, 41 subjects were asked to record their dreams. They were also asked to view seven series of three slides, dubbed artificial dream episodes (ADES), picturing random images.

patient, Dr. Denton Cooley, a Texas heart surgeon who has twice implanted temporary "booster" mechanical hearts, maintains the present heart is not sufficiently perfected for implant into humans. However, the Salt Lake City team from the University of Utah Medical Center is determined to implant the present version in at least one more volunteer.

"How far should anyone be willing to go for medical experiment?" asks Dr. Arthur Caplan of the new York Hastings Center. In the *Washington Post* recently he insisted: "We need to get better guidelines on when medical experiments should be stopped."

The subjects were asked to make up dreams from the slide images and quickly record details of the artificial dreams. Real dreams compared with ADES showed dramatic similarity in length, implausibility and bizarreness.

Judges asked to put the dreams into "real" and "fake" categories were unable to tell them apart, Webb said.

"We suggest that if we can present random pictures and a subject's brain synthesized them to look exactly like dreams, that maybe that's where the dream is coming from — random pictures being presented to the brain," Webb said.

One important question is to what extent the ethics of a decision to proceed with "high tech" medical experiments are in conflict with huge financial commitments by industry and government funding agencies to the heart "business." A sixth of all health spending in the U.S. is associated with the heart.

Once started, such programs as artificial hearts take on an unstoppable momentum. In the three months since Dr. Clark's implant, Kolf Medical which makes the \$20,000 external compressor, has received at least five million dollars in venture capital from such investors as Warburg, American Hospital Supply and American Medical International.

Utah Medical Center has received pledges of more than \$500,000 in gifts. Dr. Clark was treated free of charge — a saving of \$200,000 in medical costs. The Clark family is negotiating the sale of magazine, paperback and television rights to their story. This medical event has proved almost as glamorous as the first heart transplant by Dr. Christian Barnard in South Africa.

However, Dr. Robert Veatch of Georgetown University's Kennedy Center warns that both doctors and the public are infatuated with novel medical technology at the expense of the real ethical question of how to allocate scarce medical resources.

WILL VITAMIN PREVENT HEART ATTACK?



STOP KILLING YOURSELF

Dr. Peter J. Steiner
M.D., F.A.C.P.

Dear Dr. Steiner: I've heard of all kinds of promises for the effects of vitamin E. But I'm interested in only one. Will taking it prevent heart attacks? Some take it to increase their sexual performance; others say it's great for the skin. I've heard all sorts of claims: that taking vitamin E will keep you young, help you get through the change of life. As I say, what I'd like is to take something simple to lessen the chance of getting a heart attack. Shall I go out and buy some? — Mr. G.

Dear Mr. G.: Go out and buy some if you think it will make a healthier person out of you, but I'm sorry I can't give impetus to the belief that vitamin E will help your heart — sick or well. I know of no specific scientific proof that it will prevent heart attacks, either.

There have been some studies that have shown that taking vitamin E may raise the high density lipoproteins (HDLs) blood levels. But even their effect is questionable. It's a recent theory. Until we have definite proof that vitamin E will prevent heart attacks, I think it's a waste of money.

If you're sincerely concerned about ways to prevent a heart attack, take honest inventory. What are you doing to really help your heart? Do you smoke? Better quit. Do you overeat? To reduce weight, diet.

Do you worry too much, live in anxiety and excessive tension? Find ways to improve your way of life. Don't look for "fancy" ways to prevent a heart attack.

MEDICALETTES

(Replies to and from readers)

Dear Dr. Steiner: For years, I gave up fishing because I'd get seasick. Last week, I tried it again. But I felt fine, even though the ocean was rough. I'd been having hay fever and took some antihistamines before getting on the boat. Is it possible they might have helped? — Mr. H.

Dear Mr. H.: I've heard similar stories from other allergic patients who get seasick easily. It's not your imagination working. Allergy remedies contain some of the chemicals found in "motion-sickness pills." They act on the vestibular system in the inner ear that controls the body's reaction to motion.

Dear Dr. Steiner: I'm terribly worried. My 13-year-old son came to me the other day frightened. He had a definite enlargement in one breast. Naturally, the first thing I've thought of is cancer. Shall I wait a few weeks to see if it disappears? I'll make an appointment with a doctor if you suggest it. — Mrs. Y.

Dear Mrs. Y.: Yes, I suggest it. Any unusual lump should be regarded as suspicious until judged not guilty. As it happens, breast enlargements are fairly common in preteen boys like your son. But they are usually benign, not cancerous. Often the diagnosis is gynecomastia. Fortunately, the swelling disappears within a few years. But as I said, Mrs. Y., for complete peace of mind, better have your doctor examine it.

(Tomorrow: Too scared to eat)

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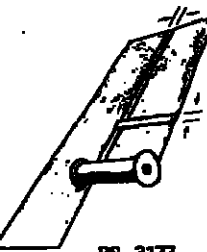


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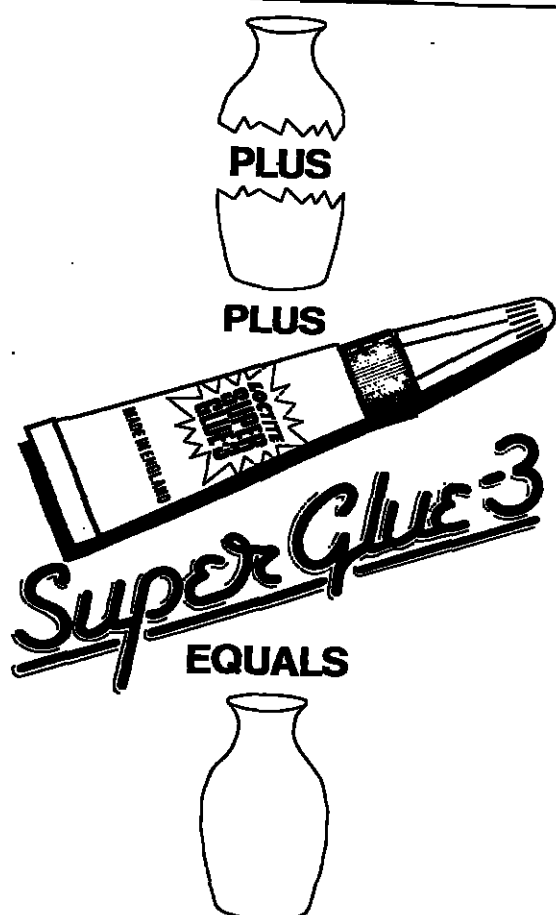
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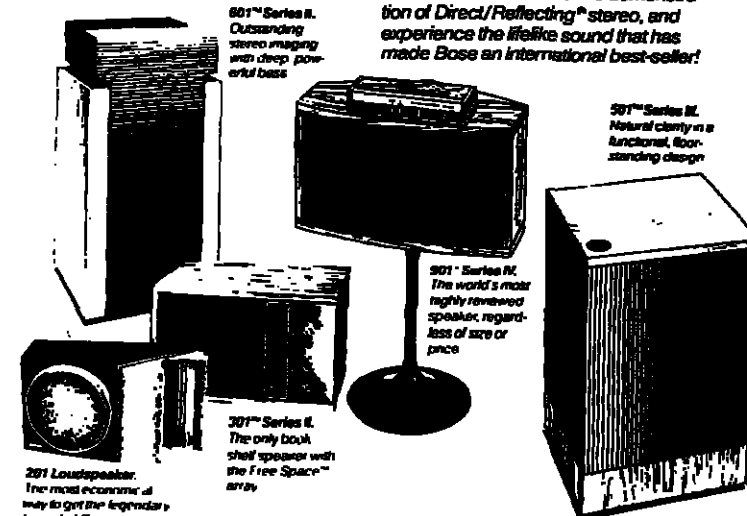
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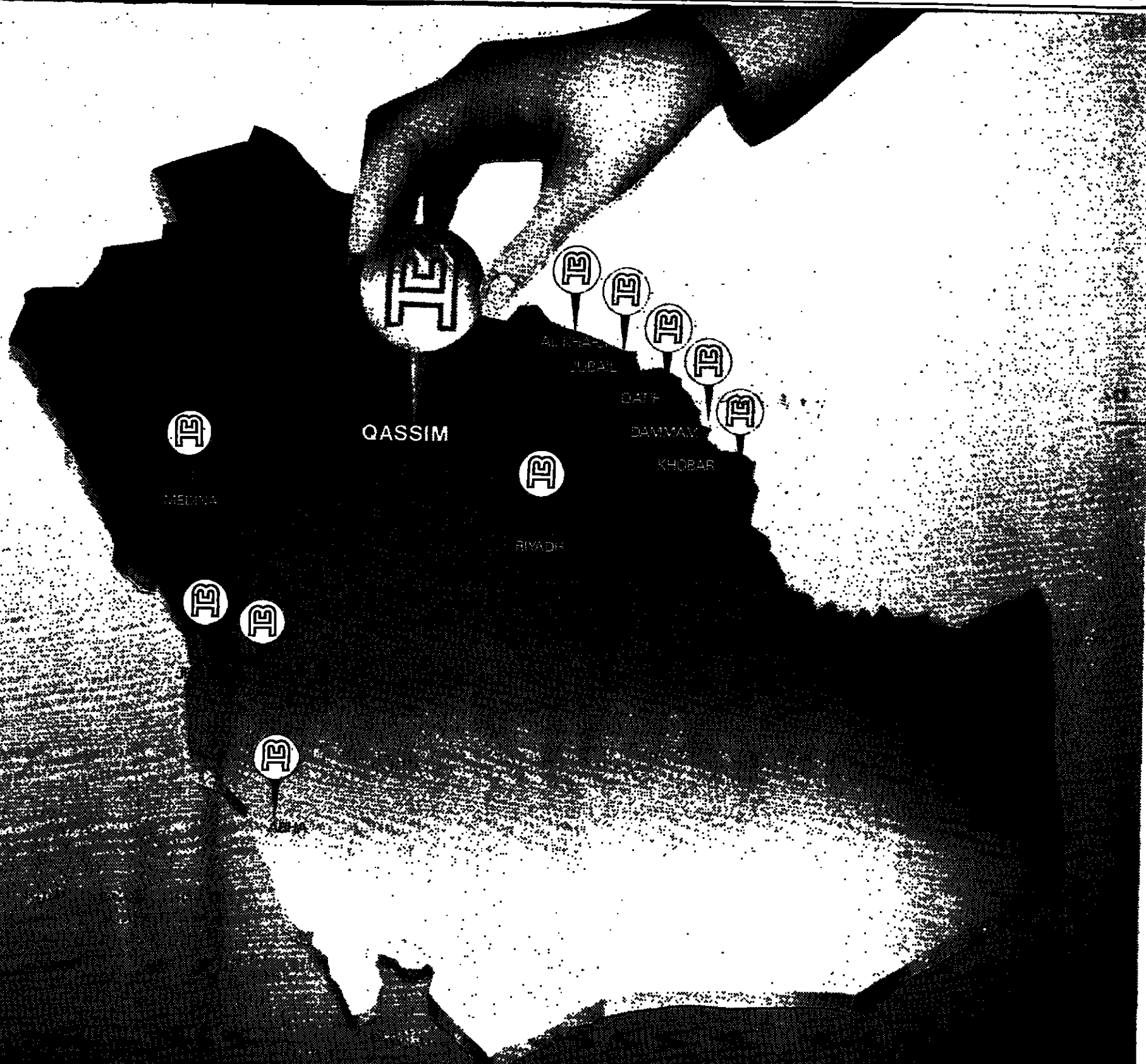
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Mighty winds bring chaos to the Pacific

By William Scobie

LOS ANGELES (LOS) — Something odd is going on in the Pacific, from lonely Christmas Island to the coast of California.

Sea birds are deserting their young, marine life is abandoning ancient habitats, beaches are being washed out to sea. The weather has gone askew, bringing flood, fire and drought to Australia, South America, the once-golden state and points between.

Meteorologists at California's renowned Scripps Institute of Oceanography here have seen nothing like it since they started keeping records 40 years ago. Mother Nature's loutish mood has whisked species of marine life from their homes near the Equator to California waters. Hordes of giant squid are invading the sea near Los Angeles. Schools of marlin are leaving deep-sea habitats thousands of miles to the south to wallow in the shallows off Santa Barbara.

Red crabs and sea horses, denizens of Mexican shores, are surfacing all the way from San Diego to San Francisco.

Why these aberrations? Why the mighty storms that greeted Queen Elizabeth's visit and were still last week pounding California's



CRACK: This huge crack, up to 30 feet wide and 65 feet deep, has opened on a Blucher Valley hillside in northern California following heavy rains in the area.

Rickshaws fade into history

By Ben Barber

CALCUTTA (LOS) — The last rickshaws in the world are here in this teeming Indian city but most of the 100,000 thin and ragged men who pull them are being thrown out of work.

A government crackdown over the last year has limited the legal number of rickshaws to 6,000, with about 20,000 being confiscated and burned by police; another 30,000 still operate under forged or improper documents and are in danger of seizure.

Whether to speed up the flow of traffic or, as some claim, to create jobs for local Bengalis by ousting the largely Bihari minority pullers, the authorities seem intent on replacing the man-powered rickshaw with motor-rickshaws like the tuk-tuks that zip through Bangkok.

That would close a chapter in human transportation that began when the two-wheeled rickshaw was invented in Japan in 1880. The British introduced them to India around 1900. Except for a few tourist rickshaws in Hong Kong, they have everywhere been replaced by cycle or motor-rickshaws.

Since each Calcutta rickshaw is pulled by two or three men in eight-hour shifts each day, about 100,000 pullers face the loss of their livelihood. An additional 100,000 wood and metal craftsmen who build and repair rickshaws are also endangered. Together they are roughly 8 percent of the city's workforce.

"If the government keeps on moving against rickshaws," said Sak Akbar, who came here 17 years ago from impoverished Bihar state 250 miles to the west, "I won't have money to live and to send to my family."

About 40 percent of each day's receipts go to the rickshaw owner in rent. The rest — about \$2 — Akbar divides between himself and his family. He sleeps at a dharma, a rickshaw wallah dormitory, but many of his friends simply sleep on the pavements beside their vehicles.

"I don't really like this job but I have no education so I can't get another," said Akbar.



RICKSHAWS: There was a time when you could not think of a Calcutta street without its rickshaws, but now the human-driven vehicles are on the way out.

started shores?

It's partly the result, say experts at Scripps, of a phenomenon called El Nino — the Child — a nickname for a hotting-up of the Pacific that starts off the Peruvian-Ecuador coasts then surges each year for thousands of miles into the ocean. This winter El Nino is warmer by 6 degrees Celsius.

By upsetting traditional wind and current patterns, says Dr. Jerome Namias of Scripps, it has brought floods to South America's west coast, and drought and fire to Australia. It is also largely to blame for the bizarre California weather which has been dumping Malibu movie-star homes in the sea, sinking yachts, shattering piers and beaching sealions. The storms have done \$900 million of damage to property and crops in California and killed at least 20 persons.

El Nino has been vexing people for thousands of years. Eighteenth century British mariners recorded in logs the destructive effect of its bloodred plankton on their ship's hulls. It almost destroyed South America's western fishing industry in the 1970s.

Now the vast body of warm water from the Equator is meeting abnormally cold seas north of Hawaii, says Dr. Namias. "That temperature difference creates strong winds, storms and the huge swells that are now battering California. Wind speeds are the fastest we have recorded since 1947."

El Nino is not the only culprit, says Namias. The jet stream, a global wind which normally moves high above the Pacific at about 75 mph, is now zipping along at 125 mph. Holidaymakers flying from Hawaii have been reaching the mainland an hour or more ahead of schedule.

The jet stream has also dropped south from its normal course, over the northern states of Oregon and Washington, to pass over southern California, trailing storm after storm in its wake.

Prevailing winds have brought numbers of unusual bird visitors to these shores. Experts think they may have come from remote Pacific atolls, where late last year more than 16 million sooty terns and other species mysteriously abandoned traditional nesting grounds, leaving fledglings to die.

At the Scripps Institute, Dr. Douglas Inman says a three-decade spell of mild Pacific weather is ending. That, he believes, means California is in for more of the same in years to come, with record high tides and flooding in the 1990s.

Tourists flocking to the beaches for Easter holidays will find a sorry spectacle. Some favorite spots have simply vanished.

who says he is 38 but looks 60.

With 200,000 people sleeping on the streets every night, and perhaps five times that number living in huts and slum shantytowns mostly without jobs, the Biharis consider themselves lucky to have work as rickshaw-pullers. The alternative is begging or starvation.

Seven hundred thousand times a day a rickshaw-puller is hailed and strikes a bargain to carry children to school, commuters to work, a family to market or up to 500 pounds of vegetables or other goods.

Once seated shoulder high above the crowds, the ride is wonderful. Unlike the metal and glass box of a taxi, you are in an open chair amid the crowds with a fantastic view into workshops, restaurants, alleys, markets and the rushing flow of Indian street life in the most populous corner of the world.

Most rides are under one mile but Akbar said he'd take passenger to Howrah station, five miles away, for \$1.50.

Joy Sen, an architect and town planner, is fighting to save the rickshaw. He said: "The rickshaw is largely used by the lower and middle classes, and is not seen as the preserve of the rich and foreigners. The rickshaw is also the most commonly used ambulance to carry sick and injured to the hospitals in Calcutta."

One of its advantages is that during the monsoon floods, its four-foot diameter wheels let it pass where taxis cannot.

The UNNAYAN development association, which is campaigning to keep the rickshaw, wants the government to provide loans to enable the rickshaw-pullers to buy their own vehicles, thereby increasing their incomes roughly 15 percent. The wooden rickshaws cost about \$60 each.

Since the Biharis generally do not vote in Calcutta elections, and have no trade union, the West Bengal government was able to vote in 1981 to enforce a 1939 British rule limiting rickshaw licenses to 6,000.

The last rickshaws on earth thus seem to be heading for the history books.

Hide-and-seek games on U.S. highways

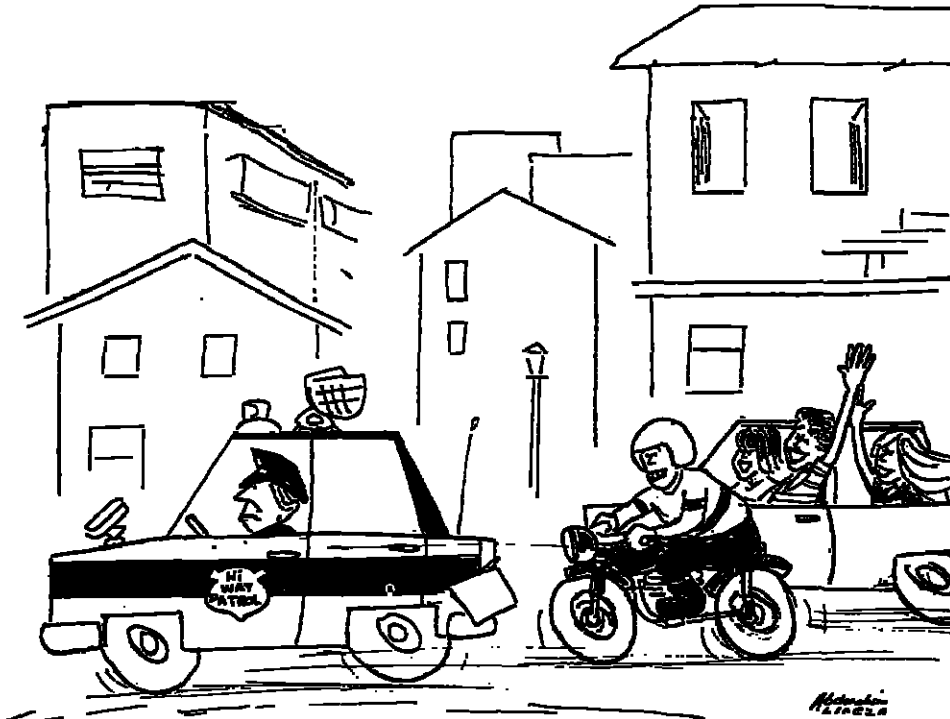
By Dave Kaiser
Arab News Staff

JEDDAH — The introduction locally of police radar to determine the speed of approaching vehicles brings back fond memories of the United States, where these devices were introduced in the early 1960s. The arrival of radar cruisers and traps on the U.S. highways and byways resulted in a new lifestyle in which previously respectable police officers became fair game for Robin Hoods and knights of the highways who delighted in making radar patrolmen run around in circles and waste their efforts.

When police radar first came into use, a cat-and-mouse-game followed, pitting notorious policemen against teenage drivers bent on outsmarting them. As the game got more involved it also became more sophisticated and more serious with both police and drivers resorting to every resource available with advancing technology.

When radar-use first came about local policemen usually set their traps at city or county lines where they awaited the arrival of unsuspecting motorists who would drive into their jurisdiction and be promptly arrested for speeding. Some towns in the United States prospered from such traps and now owe their very existence to radar.

Many of these early policemen established reputations for their skills at trapping unwary drivers and local teenagers often drove miles to where they knew such an officer 'hang-out' in order to toy with them by running the trap. Teenagers took this opportunity to scout over into the enemy territory, be chased by the police and run back across the city or county line where the officer had no jurisdiction. It often became a game for both the teenagers and local policemen with certain cars tagged by the police as 'trap runners' to be kept watch for.



As radar equipment and police tactics became more sophisticated avoiding arrest became more serious, especially when certain towns and policemen became notorious for making questionable arrests. The widespread use of police radar could even be credited with the spread of citizen's band radio (CB), which became a craze at the same time as police radar because it made it possible for drivers to form convoys and warn each other up and down the highway that the police had established a speed trap at a certain location along their route.

At the same time, numerous court battles were instituted to take the legal route to prove that the use of such devices is usually more questionable than the act of speeding.

After long deliberation, court decisions and in-use tests continue to show that 'skilled operators' could clock stationary objects or even cows at a speed of more than 100-miles-an-hour. Other policemen, who were thoroughly trained in the use of radar were found to be reading the speed of another vehicle or the combined speed of two vehicles and arresting a third innocent driver who wasn't even approaching the speed limit.

Even after more than 20 years, such court battles are continuing in the U.S. This is because due process of the law requires such devices to be banned in each individual jurisdiction. As yet, there has been no over-all court decision banning the use of

radar patrols because this would cut off a major source of income which supports many small communities.

One such court battle took place recently in the state of Washington where a driver went to fight a \$150 speeding ticket. He contested the accuracy of radar devices and the technical qualifications of the patrolman to properly use and read them and the need for daily calibration of such equipment by factory-trained technicians to assure its accuracy.

The driver won the battle, police radar can no longer be used in that community, and his \$150 fine and conviction for speeding was reversed. The case, however, aptly illustrates exactly why most drivers pay the penalty and remain silent: the decision cost him \$6,000 in legal and court fees.

Such long, drawn-out legal battles are also sometimes avoided in small communities when citizens take their defense in their own hands. This occurred recently in a Florida municipality which became so well known for bringing just about any driver who crossed into its city limits into court. The town itself consists of only a few hundred residents, but employed dozens of police officers who devoted all their time to setting up radar traps and prosecuting speeders. The town was supporting facilities enjoyed by much larger cities with a large tax base with revenues from speeders.

Finally, the residents in surrounding towns decided, after numerous complaints to state authorities, to boycott their neighbor. When the boycott began, due to the lack of telephone, electricity, gas and other utility services dependent upon trucks driving into the town, after everything came to a standstill, the community decided to reduce its anti-speeding campaigns and arrest only out-of-towners who wouldn't balk at paying fines and wouldn't be in the state long enough to cause trouble.

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Thousands of hands link three key nuclear installations

British pacifists join miles of protest

ALDERMASTON, England, April 1 (AP) — Anti-nuclear campaigners joined hands and released thousands of balloons Friday in a 14-mile human chain linking three key installations in what they call Britain's "nuclear valley."

The balloons, which had been kept at 14 checkpoints along the route, were released to mark the link-up of tens of thousands of demonstrators protesting British nuclear weapons and the planned deployment of U.S. Cruise missiles.

Chairman Joan Ruddock of the sponsoring Campaign for Nuclear Disarmament had estimated it would take 40,000 persons to stand arm-in-arm along the route, but said, "we believe we have double that." Mrs. Ruddock and police agreed it was impossible to

make an exact estimate.

Three hours before the link-up under cold and gray skies in the Thames River valley 50 miles west of London, about 40 women scaled fences at the Greenham Common U.S. Air Force Base, planned site for the Cruise missiles.

They were detained by British military police, a Newbury police spokesman said. Four women who scaled the Greenham fence at dawn were picked up by military police and later released without charge.

The event, kickoff for an Easter weekend of anti-nuclear rallies in England and Scotland, mixed dancing and singing of 1960s protest songs with a message to NATO to keep its missiles out of Britain.

"It's probably the most inspiring demon-

stration we've ever had," said Mrs. Ruddock. "The rest of the world is looking and I think they will know that the British people are determined to do something about these terrible nuclear weapons."

The protesters, who arrived by bus, car, motorbike, and foot, stood four and five deep in some places along the route holding signs saying: "Peace in the world or the world in pieces" and "USA death merchants go home."

Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher said Thursday the protesters would have been better off "to go and link hands round the Berlin Wall."

Defense Secretary Michael Heseltine returned Friday from the Berlin Wall and declared the Conservative government would never pursue the "naive and reckless road" advocated by the protesters seeking unilateral nuclear disarmament.

In West Germany, about 250 police using tear gas and attack dogs reportedly clashed with demonstrators blockading a U.S. mili-

tary base at New Ulm on Friday at the start of nationwide Easter peace protests.

One protester was arrested and another was bitten by a police dog, said Uta Schulze-Lessel, a spokeswoman for the demonstrators. It was the first report of trouble at any of the scattered protests in West Germany.

Protesters also gathered at two other American military facilities Friday as part of nationwide demonstrations that organizers said would block entrances at 15 U.S. bases and one German Army facility over the weekend.

Organizers expected tens of thousands of protesters to join the demonstrations, which conservative government leaders have condemned as a Soviet tool that will make "peace in Central Europe uncertain."

Boy recalls Nellie massacre

NEW DELHI, April 1 (AFP) — Recent factional strife in the northeast Indian state of Assam has left several hundred children orphaned, and many of those children witnessed the murder of their parents, according to a report received here Friday.

Neerja Chowdhury, reporter for *The Statesman*, a Calcutta newspaper, wrote from Assam: "A whole generation in the villages I visited seemed to be living in a trauma of grief, fear and bitterness. An official toll put deaths in Assam violence at 1,500."

In the Alishing camp of Nellie, 10-year-old Noor Muhammad, the lone survivor in a family of seven, said Lalung tribals had attacked his village of immigrant Muslims on Feb. 18. "We ran. They burned the houses. I ran with my mother. And then a bullet hit her. I kept running. I looked back and saw that they had cut her with a dao (long sickle)," the child was quoted as saying. His father and four younger brothers and sisters were also killed.

The report said there were countless children who were too terror-stricken to speak. They had also seen many of their playmates gunned down in Nellie, where some 600 children were believed to have been killed.

But, the report continued, men from the village may have been responsible for deaths in neighboring Assamese villages. People from Nellie had, Chowdhury alleged, along with other immigrant Muslims of the area, attacked Dhula, Thekrabi and surrounding villages Feb. 17, gutting them and killing 35 persons.

In Dhula, a nine-year-old Assamese girl is believed to have seen her mother raped and killed with all eight members of her family. Nearby, a four-year-old keeps repeating in a parrot-like fashion: "My father is dead. They cut him to pieces," Chowdhury wrote.

Meanwhile, Prime Minister Indira Gandhi on Friday was winding up a three-day tour of Assam, marred by a bomb attack that lengthened the long list of victims from two months of clashes between native-born

Thai forces exchange artillery fire with Viets

BANGKOK, April 1 (Agencies) — Vietnamese and Thai forces exchanged artillery fire across the Thailand-Kampuchea frontier Friday, Thai military officials at the border said.

The Vietnamese fired shells deep into Thailand as they began mopping-up operations around the overrun Khmer Rouge guerrilla stronghold of Phnom Chat, and the Thais replied with their own artillery barrage, the officials said. One Vietnamese soldier was killed in a clash with troops.

The exchange lasted several hours, with the Vietnamese launching shell and mortar fire from their Kok Klao base, seven kilometers inside Kampuchea, a Thai military commander said. The Vietnamese have begun a

sweep against the guerrillas, who scattered after a major Vietnamese assault Thursday knocked out their base 280 kilometers east of Bangkok, the officials said.

Vietnamese soldiers crossed into Thai territory twice Friday to cut off fleeing Khmer Rouge guerrillas, but Thai troops drove them back, the officials added. The Vietnamese also clashed with Khmer Rouge insurgents south of Phnom Chat around Kampuchea's route five highway linking the towns of Poipet and Sisophon, the officials said.

The officials believed the Khmer Rouge were harassing the Vietnamese along this important supply line to relieve pressure on their beleaguered frontier bases.

The officials estimated that at least 33 civilians including a Buddhist monk died Thursday's attack and said the final death toll would be much higher. Relief workers said 171 civilian wounded, at least 70 of them seriously injured, had been brought to the main refugee hospital at the United Nations-run Khao-I-Dang camp on the Thai side of the border. Many more casualties remained in the area of conflict, they said.

Reports reaching here said a cable link had been damaged by Vietnamese artillery, disrupting telecommunications between the key Thai border town of Aranyaprathet and Wat-tanakorn, the seat of a Thai military field command.

Meanwhile, Thai authorities and United Nations officials Friday evacuated about 15,000 Cambodians from Vietnamese shelling along the Thai-Cambodian border to a prepared refugee camp near Thab Siam, three kilometers inside Thailand.

Italian Reds, Socialists mend ties

ROME, April 1 (R) — Clear signs emerged Friday of an improvement in the traditionally tense relationship between Italy's Communist and Socialist parties. The parties, in a joint statement to rebuff charges of corruption in left-wing city administrations, spoke of "a tendency toward improvement in our parties' ties."

It was made public following a meeting Thursday between the parties' leaders and suggested a degree of understanding not apparent for several years. The statement said recent judicial actions could not fail to provoke "strong doubts about political manipulation" — an apparent allusion to a possible Christian Democratic attempt to discredit leftist city councils ahead of local polls.

Turin's left-wing city council had to resign last month after accusations of corruption, and similar administrations in Rome and Milan have also been the object of judicial inquiries.

Both parties said they intended to extend their cooperation in local government, where the left runs several major cities in sometimes uneasy alliance. The development appeared certain to irritate the dominant Christian Democrats, with whom the Socialists are partners in a four-party government coalition, political sources said.

The sources said the joint statement appeared also to mark the run-up to the local elections in June which are being widely billed as an important political test with general elections due to be held next year at the latest.

A government spokesman said Friday that the local poll, involving administrations of 1,104 communes and about 20 percent of the electorate, would be held June 26 if parliament approved.

Friday's joint statement, which followed six hours of talks between Communist leader Enrico Berlinguer and Socialist leader Bettino Craxi, made clear that a process of tentative detente between the parties is under way.

Last month the Communist Party, which won 30 percent of the vote at the last general election in 1979, appealed to the Socialists, who took close to 10 percent, to join forces in an alternative government and end Christian Democratic domination of Italian politics.

When the current government of Prime Minister Amintore Fanfani was formed last year it had been widely expected that the general and local elections would be combined. But political sources said that barring a sudden crisis this now appeared to be ruled out. All parties seemed uncertain about their current standing and wanted a clue to it in the local poll before confronting a general election, they said.

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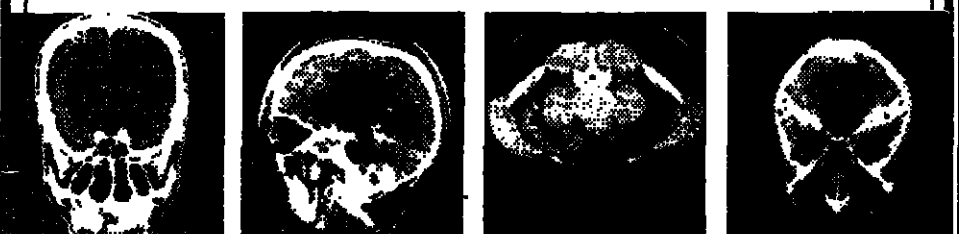
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